



Annual General Meeting

2023





NSWA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

The Lodge at the Snow Valley Ski Club (13204 Rainbow Valley Rd NW, Edmonton)

REGISTRATION

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Refreshments**

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Opening Prayer and Smudge**
- Elder Coleen Garska

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **BREAK (15 min)**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **SOCIETY BUSINESS**

Steph Neufeld, Chair

- Acceptance of Agenda
- Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

2021- 2022 Annual Report

Scott Millar, Executive Director

- Acceptance of Annual Report

2021 - 2022 Audited Financial Statement

Adam Polzen, Treasurer

- Acceptance of 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements
- Appointment of Auditor for 2022-2023

2022 – 2023 Operating Plan and Budget

Scott Millar, Executive Director

- Acceptance of 2023-2024 Operating Plan and Budget

2022 – 2023 Board of Directors

Kyle Schole, Vice-Chair

- Election of Directors
- Board and Staff Recognition

Closing Remarks and Adjournment of AGM

Steph Neufeld, Chair

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. **BREAK (15 min)**

SPEAKERS

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Presentation: Wetlands in the Watershed**

- Michelle Gordy (NSWA) and Bart Muusse (Ducks Unlimited)

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Barbeque lunch and networking (1 hour)

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Pictures – Board of Directors and Staff**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **2022 – 2023 Board of Directors**

NSWA Board

- Election of Officers
- Board Committees

WHITEMUD CREEK WALK (optional)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Walking tour along Whitemud Creek**

- Dr. Michael Sullivan and Laura MacPherson (Environment and Protected Areas)

AFTER AGM SOCIAL (optional)

4:00 p.m. **Join us for an after-AGM social at Bent Stick Brewing**

- Bent Stick Brewing located at 9926 78 Ave NW, Edmonton

Directions to Snow Valley Ski Hill

Map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/HGfGKvaFbdU49oov6>

← from Southwest Edmonton, Edmonton, AB T6H 0A6 to Snow Valley Ski Club, 13204 Rainbow Valley Rd...

4 min (1.8 km)
via Rainbow Valley Rd NW
Fastest route now due to traffic conditions

Southwest Edmonton
Edmonton, AB T6H 0A6

- ↑ Head west toward 122 St NW N
300 m
- ← Use the right lane to turn left onto 122 St NW
350 m
- ↪ Turn right onto Rainbow Valley Rd NW
Destination will be on the left
1.2 km

Snow Valley Ski Club
13204 Rainbow Valley Rd NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 3Y9

Map features: Gas, EV charging, Hotels, More, Sign in, Live traffic, Fast, Slow.



Draft Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

June 22, 2022, 9:00 am – 10:45 am

Pioneer's Cabin, Edmonton

WELCOME

Executive Director Leah Kongsrude made welcoming remarks to delegates and NSWA staff. The NSWA bylaws indicate that quorum for the Annual General Meeting is 25 members and with it was noted that there were 35 registered members in attendance and therefore quorum was reached. Chair Ken Crutchfield chaired the meeting and acknowledged and thanked the Indigenous Peoples who came before us.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Chair Crutchfield called the meeting to order and informed the membership that all motions today would be approved with a majority vote. There were no motions that required a 75% vote this year.

AGENDA

Corbett/Schole: That the Agenda for the June 22, 2022, NSWA Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Danielson/Craik: That the Minutes of the NSWA AGM held June 23, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

NSWA ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Leah Kongsrude provided an overview of the NSWA's Annual Report for 2021-22. Kongsrude thanked the NSWA Board, Executive and staff for their contributions.

She outlined Alberta's Water for Life Strategy and the three key partnerships. Kongsrude outlined NSWA's four Strategic Goals which focus on collaboration, leadership, knowledge sharing and maintaining a sustainable organization.

She highlighted the NSWA's collaborative work on the Riparian Web Portal and Riparian Health Action Plan, which won a 2022 Alberta Emerald Award. Included among the collaboration highlights was the work done by the subwatershed alliances and lake partnerships. Kongsrude pointed to the NSWA's input on numerous provincial initiatives, such as the Designated Industrial Zone Pilot Project, the North Saskatchewan Region Surface Water Quality Framework, the WaterSHED Water Quality Monitoring Project to demonstrate NSWA leadership in watershed management. Supporting watershed knowledge sharing, Kongsrude described various online speaker series and the extensive work of the NSWA's summer students to attend community events and sample local lakes. Kongsrude also acknowledged the financial contributions from the Province of Alberta, member municipalities and Epcor and thanked them for their support.

Schole/Lemay: That the 2021-22 NSW Annual Report be accepted as information.

CARRIED

NSWA FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-22:

Stephen Craik, NSW Treasurer, provided a presentation on the final 2021-22 Financial Report. Craik acknowledged and thanked Leah Kongsrude and Ellen Cust as well as NSW's auditor Mr. Cheng Lim of Lim & Associates, Edmonton.

Craik/Corbett: That the 2020-2021 NSW Audited Financial Statement be accepted as information.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Craik/Danielson: That Lim and Associates be appointed as the NSW financial auditor for 2022-2023.

CARRIED

NSWA OPERATING PLAN 2022-2023:

Kongsrude made a presentation on the NSW's 2022-23 Operating Plan. She highlighted the NSW's three Strategic Priorities, including focusing collaborative efforts on highest ability to support the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, updating the State of the Watershed assessment, and targeting NSW communications efforts. Kongsrude also provided a brief overview of the 2021-22 operational budget.

Corbett/LeMay: That the 2021-2022 NSW Operating Plan and Budget be accepted as information.

CARRIED

NSWA Board Elections:

Allan Corbett provided an overview of the updated Board sector representation requirements from the 2020 NSW Society Bylaws. He noted that there were four nominations for election:

- Municipal (1)
- Academia/Member at Large (1)
- Industry (1)

Corbett/Schole: That the following nominations be acclaimed:

Municipal (Parkland County) – Kristina Kowalski

Member at Large – Steve Craik

Industry – Dr. Laurie Danielson

Industry – Adam Polzen

CARRIED

Recognition of Leaving Directors

Laurie Danielson recognized leaving Board members Aleta Corbett, Jim Duncan, and John Thompson and thanked them for their years of service to the NSW.

Recognition of Long Service

Laurie Danielson acknowledged the long service of several Board members:

- Bill Fox (21 years)
- Laurie Danielson (13 years)
- Tracy Scott (11 years + 1 year returning)

- Steve Craik (10 years)
- Ken Crutchfield (9 years)
- Al Corbett (9 years)
- Tony Lemay (7 years)
- Jamie Bruha (7 years)

Recognition of Staff

Laurie Danielson recognized the support and service offered by NSWA staff. There was a recognition presentation made to outgoing Executive Director Leah Kongsrude.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Crutchfield thanked the NSWA staff for facilitating a return to an in-person AGM and acknowledged the hard work and commitment of the board members.

Crutchfield/Danielson: That the June 22, 2022 NSWA Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



NSWA
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

VISION

People working together for a healthy and functioning North Saskatchewan
River watershed - today and tomorrow

MISSION

To protect and improve water quality, water quantity (instream flow) and the
health of our watershed by:

Seeking, developing and sharing knowledge;
Facilitating partnerships and collaborative planning; and,
Working in an adaptive management process.

PHOTOS USED IN THIS REPORT

The NSWA gratefully acknowledges the following photographers whose photos are included in this report.

Cover - Aurora - photo by Bill Trout, Images Alberta
Page 3 - Beaver - photo by Bill Trout, Images Alberta
Page 10 - Wetland - photo by Bill Trout, Images Alberta
Page 13 - Refinery - photo by Bill Trout, Images Alberta
Page 13 - Sampling - photo by Blake Stuparyk, Watershed Integrity Project
Page 15 - WaterSHED Monitoring Station, Government of Alberta
Page 15 - Wetland - photo by Steve Ricketts, Images Alberta

The remaining photos were taken by NSWA staff.



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance acknowledges that the traditional land on which our watershed resides is in Treaty 6 Territory, Treaty 8 Territory, and the Métis Homeland. We deeply respect and wish to honour the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak/Cree, Denesuliné/Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and the Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We further acknowledge this territory as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

I am thrilled to present our 2022-2023 annual report, celebrating another impactful year for the NSWA. Even with the changes in staff and among the Board executive, the NSWA made significant strides forward in understanding the health of the watershed and building partnerships to take action on the basin's Integrated Watershed Management Plan.



The NSWA's achievements are a testament to the collective efforts of our passionate team and the invaluable support from individuals and organization across the watershed. As we confront the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, we remain resolute in our mission and inspired by the positive change we can create together.

STEPH NEUFELD, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is my first year with the NSWA and it's been a fun-filled, yet steep learning curve to fill the shoes of the NSWA's previous Executive Director. Leah made my transition into the position easy and I credit her for setting the NSWA up for success for many years to come. Thank you Leah!

The heart of the NSWA is truly in the staff who bring such passion and dedication to bear on every project, engagement, workshop, and partnership. This year, the NSWA grew by two watershed coordinators and two watershed technicians, and so the whole organization has been learning and growing with all the new people. These people who make up the NSWA spark collaboration amongst our partners and enthusiasm amongst one another. What a great place to work! I look forward to seeing what the coming year holds.



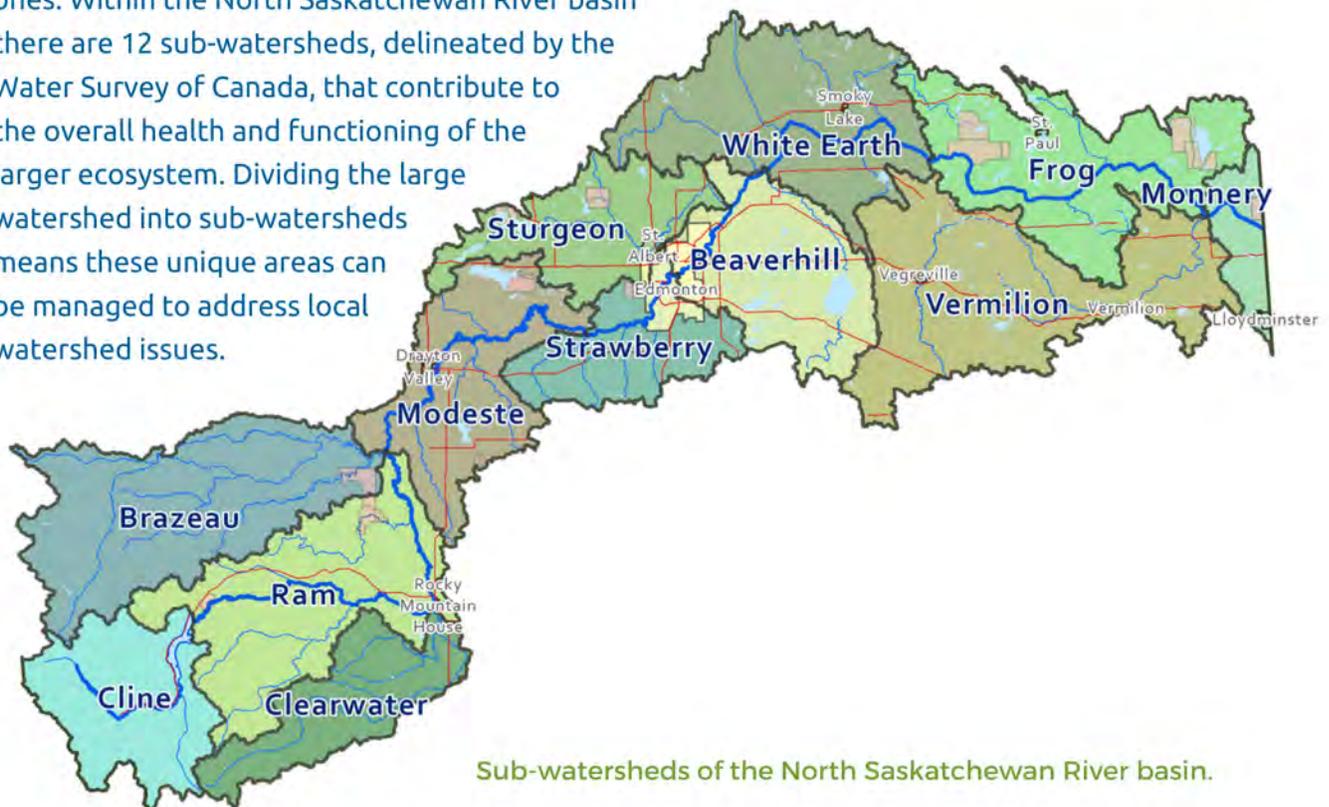
SCOTT MILLAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED

The North Saskatchewan River watershed is a sprawling expanse of approximately 57,000 square kilometers within Alberta. Originating in the Rocky Mountains, the river flows eastward towards the Saskatchewan border, traversing through the City of Edmonton and many smaller communities en route. Water features in the watershed include icefields, glaciers, rivers, reservoirs, lakes, wetlands, drainage districts, canals and oxbows.

This vast region is a mosaic of diverse ecosystems, supporting a wide range of flora and fauna. Moreover, the North Saskatchewan River watershed is a critical resource for both human and non-human inhabitants, serving as a primary source of water for people, agriculture, industry, and wildlife. The complex dynamics of this intricate system require a multidisciplinary approach to stewardship, management, conservation, and protection.

Watersheds form a nesting pattern, with smaller ones (called sub-watersheds) draining into larger ones. Within the North Saskatchewan River basin there are 12 sub-watersheds, delineated by the Water Survey of Canada, that contribute to the overall health and functioning of the larger ecosystem. Dividing the large watershed into sub-watersheds means these unique areas can be managed to address local watershed issues.



Sub-watersheds of the North Saskatchewan River basin.

ABOUT THE NSWA

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to promoting the health and sustainability of the North Saskatchewan River and its watershed.

Under the Alberta *Water for Life* strategy, the NSWA carries the responsibility of developing and then encouraging voluntary implementation of an integrated watershed management plan. Implemented through collaboration and community engagement, the plan sets out the actions needed to protect and enhance the quality of water and the health of aquatic ecosystems within the watershed, while also supporting the social and economic well-being of the region.

NSWA Strategic Goals



NSWA STAFF

Left to right: Leah Kongsrude, Kaila Belovich, Jill Peterson, Elisa Brose, Mary Ellen Shain, Rosey Radmanovich, Brad Tyssen, Kelsie Norton, Ellen Cust, Scott Millar, Michelle Gordy





BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

CHAIR

Stephanie Neufeld
EPCOR
Utilities Sector

VICE CHAIR

Kyle Schole
Member at Large

TREASURER

Adam Polzen
Pembina Pipeline
Industry

SECRETARY

Kristina Kowalski
Parkland County
Municipal

DIRECTORS

Bill Fox

Alberta Beef Producers
Agriculture

Alan Corbett

Alberta Drainage Council
Government Agency

Bart Guyon

Brazeau County
Municipal

Dr. Greg Goss

University of Alberta
Academia

Dr. Laurie Danielson

Northeast Capital Industrial
Association
Industry

Mike Killick

City of St. Albert
Municipal

Rhonda King

ALUS Canada
Non-governmental
Organization

Jamie Bruha

Alberta Environment and
Protected Areas
Provincial Government

Ian Kwantes

Canadian Timberlands
Weyerhaeuser Company
Industry

Daryl Lougheed Gennifer Mehlhaff

Clearwater County
Municipal

Wade Teveniuk

Alberta Capital Wastewater
Commission
Utility

Tracy Scott

Ducks Unlimited
Non-governmental
Organization

Tony Lemay

Alberta Energy Regulator /
Alberta Geological Survey
Provincial Government

Ken Crutchfield

Alberta Chapter of the
Wildlife Society
Non-governmental
Organization

Craig Sinclair

TransAlta Corporation
Utility

Jatinder Tiwana

City of Edmonton
Advisory Position

Dr. Stephen Craik

Member at Large

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

We are grateful to the many supporters of the NSWA. We would not be able to facilitate partnerships, complete studies, or share knowledge in our watershed without the time and resources provided by our generous contributors.

We acknowledge the **Government of Alberta** for providing a multi-year operational grant and important contributions from **EPCOR** and **43 municipalities** in our watershed. We are also grateful for a 3-year operational grant provided by the **Edmonton Community Foundation**.



COUNTIES

Brazeau County
Clearwater County
County of Minburn
County of Two Hills
County of Vermilion River
Lac Ste Anne County
Leduc County
Parkland County
Smoky Lake County
St. Paul County
Strathcona County
Sturgeon County

CITIES

Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan
St. Albert
Spruce Grove

TOWNS

Bruderheim
Calmar
Devon
Drayton Valley
Gibbons
Onoway
Rocky Mountain House
Smoky Lake
St. Paul
Thorsby
Two Hills
Vegreville
Vermilion

VILLAGES

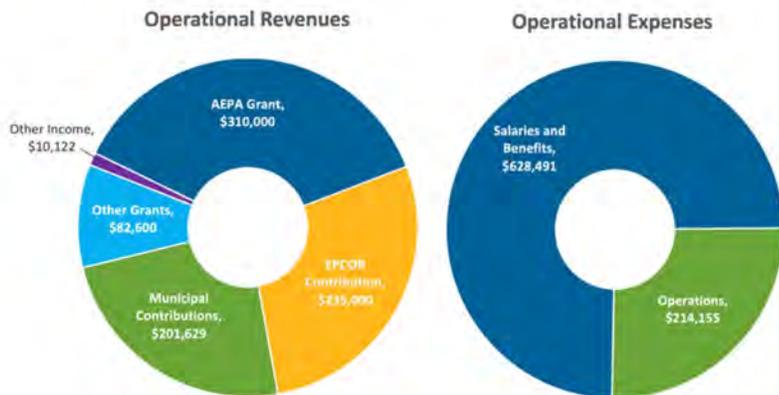
Alberta Beach
Breton
Chipman
Innisfree
Spring Lake

SUMMER VILLAGES

Betula Beach
Horseshoe
Kapasiwin
Lakeview
Ross Haven
Seba Beach
South View
Sunset Point
West Cove
Yellowstone

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATIONAL FUNDING



You can find a full copy of the NSWA 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statement on our website under Our Society.

The NSWA receives core operational funding from:

- An operating grant from the Government of Alberta
- A contribution from EPCOR Water Services Canada
- Municipal contributions equivalent to \$0.50 per capita
- An operational grant from the Edmonton Community Foundation

PROJECT FUNDING

The NSWA applies for grants from federal, provincial, and private grant programs for watershed project-specific work such as technical studies and on-the-ground restoration projects.



Alberta Community Partnership



Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program



HEADWATERS ALLIANCE

Partnerships

The **Headwaters Alliance** is a municipally-led watershed stewardship group that works in partnership with the NSWA. Formed in 2014, the Alliance is guided by a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of technical staff and volunteers. Rosey Radmanovich took over as the coordinator of the Headwaters Alliance in June 2022.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

There was much changeover for the Headwaters Alliance in 2022. Many of the Steering Committee members were newly elected to their council positions and new to the Alliance. The Headwaters coordinator and others from NSWA introduced the work of the NSWA and Headwaters Alliance by delivering customized presentations to each member municipal council and with one-on-one orientation sessions.

The addition of a new Coordinator and many new Alliance members also drove a need to reflect on the Alliance's strategic plan and identify new opportunities that could be reflected in the work of the Headwaters Alliance.

ADVANCING THE RIPARIAN HEALTH ACTION PLAN

Numerous municipalities in the Headwaters region have changed their municipal policies or Municipal Development Plans to include protection and consideration of riparian areas.

The City of Beaumont Environmental Master Plan is one example that identifies goals that explicitly focus on protection and improvement of riparian areas.

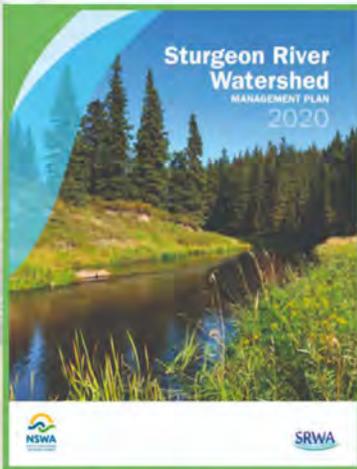
STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Partnerships

The **Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)** includes a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of municipal staff, non-governmental organizations, and technical experts. In June 2022, Kelsie Norton took on the role of SRWA Coordinator.



MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



The SRWA has been focusing on key action items from the 2020 Watershed Management Plan with support from an **Alberta Community Partnership Grant**. Key focus areas are aligning policy and planning efforts and building planning tools for achieving the target of 65% riparian intactness.

Currently, a *Best Management Practices Guide for Riparian Intactness* is being developed with contract support from Municipal Planning Services. The guide will be based on a review of land use bylaws and policies that guide development near riparian areas within the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

- Tetra Tech Canada designed and implemented a repeatable two-year water quality sampling program for the Sturgeon River Watershed.
- A water quality summary report was produced from sampling data collected in 2021 (spring and summer). The water quality data will be accessible through the open-access DataStream portal.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Wetland Day Forum - September 2022
- Road Salt Management Workshop - February 2023



VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Partnerships

The **Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)** is a local nonprofit group with members from local towns and counties, federal and provincial governments, conservation groups, and the general public. In partnership with the NSWA, the VRWA works to advance the health of the Vermilion River watershed and the surrounding areas. In June 2022, Rosey Radmanovich took on the role of coordinator for the VRWA.



TOWN OF VERMILION ECO-BUFFER



In September 2022, VRWA partnered with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) and Lakeland College to plant two riparian eco-buffers sites within the Town of Vermilion.



The planting day brought together 23 volunteers from the community to plant over 1200 seedlings and plants at two separate sites. It is anticipated that educational signage will be installed at both sites to describe the eco-buffers and how they help to improve watershed health.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

VRWA and NSWA supported the **County of Vermilion River's Wetland Adventure Day** at the Hazeldine Campground in August. Attendees learned about watersheds, wetlands, and participated in a pond dipping activity to learn about the bugs that live in wetlands.

For the second year, the VRWA hosted the **Buggin' Out Down by the River** event with the Vermilion Public Library on July 22. Kids had a great time learning about watersheds, the Vermilion River, pond dipping, and identifying and learning about benthic macroinvertebrates.



ADVISORY SUPPORT



fRI Research WATER & FISH PROGRAM ACTIVITY TEAM

NSWA joined the Water & Fish Program by fRI Research which aims to ensure that stakeholders are provided with scientifically-credible and relevant information to pursue environmental excellence in the Eastern Slopes region of the province. The program works to develop research and tools, mobilize knowledge, and provide training opportunities. The NSWA brings a unique watershed perspective, provides advice, and supports the development of research questions and proposals.

NSWA attended a workshop in Spring 2022 that brought together researchers and experts from across Canada to discuss the state of research and modelling to guide forest management in the Eastern Slopes, developing remote sensing tools, and providing education opportunities.

DESIGNATED INDUSTRIAL ZONE (DIZ)

The Designated Industrial Zone (DIZ) in Alberta's Industrial Heartland is an ongoing Government of Alberta initiative that will establish a new regulatory framework specific to the industrial area in the central portion of the watershed. NSWA continues to be a partner in the collaborative working group to advance the DIZ program.



This year NSWA participated in several working groups, hosted by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas resulting in the release of the **Industrial Heartland Designated Industrial Zone Framework** and the **Industrial Heartland Designated Industrial Zone Water Quality Management Program**, among others.

WATERSHED INTEGRITY PROJECT



The NSWA proudly supports a project involving the **University of Alberta, Government of Alberta, and Alberta Innovates** to develop a comprehensive geospatial tool for assessing watershed integrity and aquatic ecosystem health in the North Saskatchewan River basin. The project is developing a geospatial model built on a number of environmental, climate, and stressor indicators, with plans to validate the model against field data collected across the watershed.

RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL RIPARIAN HEALTH ACTION PLAN

Basin-wide Projects



This was a spectacular year for the Riparian Web Portal! In June 2022, the achievements of the Web Portal were recognized with an **Alberta Emerald Award**. The award was presented by the Alberta Government and came with a \$2,000 donation. The Web Portal was also a finalist for the Canadian Water's Next Award, and was featured in WaterCanada Magazine, which boasts a readership of 72,000 people across Canada.



Over the past year, NSWA co-hosted nine "ambassador" training sessions of the **Riparian 101 and 102 workshops** with **190 participants**. We also hosted a special session with Sturgeon County, where council members and operational staff participated in brainstorming riparian solutions.



LAKELAND COLLEGE CONTEST

The NSWA hosted a special contest in partnership with Lakeland College that was suggested by Nicole Nodorozny, an Executive member of the VRWA and Lakeland College instructor. Students in the environmental program were partnered with conservation project managers from across the province to build compelling stories from real on-the-ground restoration projects for display on the Riparian Web Portal.



RIPARIAN VIDEO SERIES

The NSWA and Battle River Watershed Alliance developed a 5-part video series on riparian management with a special message from Canadian astronaut **Dr. Robert Thirsk, (Canadian Space Agency, ret.)**.

WATERSHED PROJECTS

STATE OF THE WATERSHED UPDATE

- The NSWA is renewing the *State of the Watershed* indicators and assessment for the North Saskatchewan River watershed.
- The project will build upon the previous 2005 assessment, but will integrate new data sets, and a broader suite of indicators and metrics.
- Expertise and input from local stakeholders, sub-watershed alliances, and the Board will be integral to the new State of the Watershed report.



REGIONAL LAKES STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



- NSWA has received multi-year funding from Pembina Pipeline's Community Investment Program to complete our Regional Lake Stewardship Project.
- A collaborative, community approach is needed because lake management issues such as water quantity, water quality, erosion, and riparian degradation are interconnected and complex.
- The project will focus on lakes with a regional lens, looking at communications, restoration opportunities, supporting monitoring, and providing educational workshops.

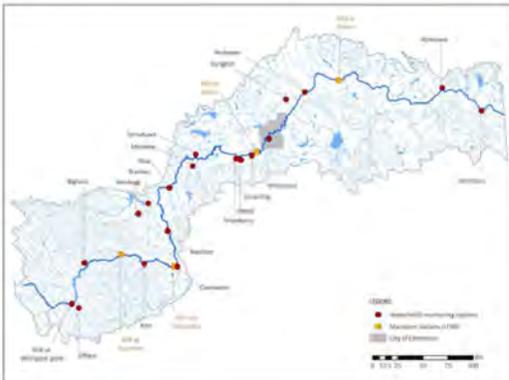
WETLAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- Together with the subwatershed alliances and other watershed partners, the NSWA has developed the **Strategy to Improve Wetland Management for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta.**
- The strategy aims to increase the number of wetlands, improve the overall condition of wetlands, and improve ongoing wetland management.
- As part of the strategy, the NSWA is offering a Wetland Education Sponsorship to elevate the capacity of partners to conserve wetlands and drive restoration initiatives in the watershed.



WATERSHED PROJECTS

WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM



- The WaterSHED Monitoring Program is a unique partnership between Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, EPCOR, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and the City of Edmonton.
- By coordinating resources, this collaborative partnership has created the North Saskatchewan River's most comprehensive river monitoring program.
- It encompasses 20 monitoring stations from the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River to the Saskatchewan Border.

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

- The work to implement the **Wabamun Watershed Management Plan (WWMP)** is a collaboration between watershed stakeholders, governments, and other key partners.
- The WWMP provides long-term direction for Wabamun Lake watershed management, consistent with the goals of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability (2003)*.
- Implementation of the WWMP will be achieved through the voluntary choices and actions of stakeholders.



NATURAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT



- NSWA began work to define a Natural Assets project for the watershed by connecting with key partners such as:
 - International Institute for Sustainable Development
 - Natural Assets Initiative
 - Parkland County
 - City of Edmonton
 - Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A key role for the NSWA is sharing knowledge and information on the North Saskatchewan River watershed. This year, the NSWA participated in many community events and workshops, including a community event for Newcomers to Edmonton, canoe trips, family programs, pond dipping parties, and farmers markets. Lake sampling with ALMS was also a highlight. These events afforded the NSWA opportunities to meet people from the watershed community, share information, and answer lots of questions.

ALBERTA WATERSHED VIDEO SERIES

NSWA received a \$75,000 multi-year Community Investment (CARE) grant from Plains Midstream Canada to create a series of five short, animated videos about Alberta's watersheds. The final year of the project is here, and the videos are nearly complete. Keep an eye on NSWA's social media, newsletter, and YouTube channel for links and updates to the videos.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

WATERSHED WEDNESDAY WEBINARS

A series of six online Watershed Wednesday webinars were held in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023 with over 300 participants. The series included international experts in freshwater health and natural infrastructure and many great speakers from within Alberta. We experimented with an interview style conversation and heard some positive feedback. Past webinars are available on the NSWA YouTube channel.



INSTREAM NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL CALENDAR



The NSWA monthly newsletter keeps 900+ subscribers informed about events, projects and partner information. In 2023 we added new features including blog posts, arts and culture, and feature articles. Anyone can sign up for the newsletter on the NSWA website (nswa.ab.ca). The 2023 calendar was published and distributed to municipal leaders, MLAs, and other partners in the watershed.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

NSWA continues to expand our social media influence. Highlights included a coordinated social media campaign with **EPCOR's #glassofthesask** promotion with a paddle package prize from **Paddle Station**. We featured a similar prize promotion in the winter, with the prize of lift passes provided by **Snow Valley Ski Club**.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING

- Twitter: 2825
- Facebook: 1065
- Instagram: 906
- LinkedIn: 925





NSWA
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

CONTACT US

Website: nswa.ab.ca

Email: water@nswa.ab.ca

Phone: 587 525 6820

Address: #202-9440 49 Street
Edmonton, AB T6B 2M9

SOCIAL MEDIA



NorthSaskRiver



@NorthSaskRiver



north_sask_river

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (the Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO)

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

(continues)

**Operates through Cheng S. Lim Professional Corporation.*

Suite 101, 14805 - 119 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5L 2N9 P. 780.484.8803 F. 780.761.0688 E. info@limcpas.com

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (*continued*)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Lim & Associates

Edmonton , AB
June 5, 2023

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2023

	Watershed Grants	Pembina Regional Lake	Web Portal Project	Educational Videos for All	Alberta Community Partnership	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2023	2022
<i>Schedule 1</i>									
REVENUES									
Contributions - municipal funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,969	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 417,788	\$ -	\$ 424,757	\$ 424,874
Contributions - grants	147,243	-	-	-	-	392,600	-	539,843	657,956
Contributions - In kind (Note 11)	-	-	-	-	-	524,703	-	524,703	477,906
Donations	-	5,359	-	34,916	-	2,103	-	42,378	13,286
Interest income	4,910	315	815	545	-	7,828	-	14,413	2,715
Publication sales	-	-	-	-	-	209	-	209	586
Reimbursements	-	-	-	-	68,529	-	-	68,529	27,500
	<u>152,153</u>	<u>5,674</u>	<u>7,784</u>	<u>35,461</u>	<u>68,529</u>	<u>1,345,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,614,832</u>	<u>1,604,823</u>
EXPENSES									
Accounting and legal fees	-	-	-	-	-	85,728	-	85,728	60,070
Amortization	-	-	-	-	-	19,064	-	19,064	12,560
Communications and promotions	3,475	-	-	14,252	2,783	6,354	-	26,864	18,179
Fieldwork and assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225
In-kind expenses (Note 11)	-	-	-	-	-	524,703	-	524,703	477,906
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	5,899	-	5,899	5,782
Meetings and conventions	1,033	-	-	-	-	3,195	-	4,228	275
Office expenses	152	-	-	-	-	40,618	-	40,770	27,152
Promotional publications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,131
Rent and utilities	-	-	-	-	-	35,435	-	35,435	38,512
Restoration work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,749
Salaries and benefits	159,152	4,474	-	21,209	35,395	628,491	-	848,721	640,876
Technical and consulting fees	33,745	1,200	-	-	30,026	3,380	-	68,351	129,308
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	-	6,749	-	6,749	7,151
Travel and accommodation	2,509	-	-	-	325	7,543	-	10,377	3,650
Website costs	-	-	7,784	-	-	90	-	7,874	25,238
	<u>200,066</u>	<u>5,674</u>	<u>7,784</u>	<u>35,461</u>	<u>68,529</u>	<u>1,367,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,684,763</u>	<u>1,505,764</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(47,913)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(22,018)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(69,931)</u>	<u>99,059</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)									
Canada Emergency Wage and Rent Subsidy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129,013
Internal grants	47,913	-	-	-	-	(130,500)	-	(82,587)	-
	<u>47,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(130,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(82,587)</u>	<u>129,013</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (152,518)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (152,518)</u>	<u>\$ 228,072</u>

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended March 31, 2023

	Watershed Grants	Pembina Regional Lake	Web Portal Project	Educational Videos for All	Alberta Community Partnership & Watershed Communication	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 532,044	\$ 605,000	\$ 1,137,044	\$ 908,972
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(152,518)	-	(152,518)	228,072
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 379,526	\$ 605,000	\$ 984,526	\$ 1,137,044

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2023

	Watershed Grants	Pembina Regional Lake	Web Portal Project	Educational Videos for All	Watershed Communication	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
ASSETS									
CURRENT									
Cash	\$ 197,120	\$ 21,641	\$ 47,339	\$ 33,985	\$ 140,750	\$ 454,620	\$ -	\$ 895,455	\$ 842,377
Short term investments (Notes 3, 9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	605,000	605,000	605,000
Contributions receivable	-	-	-	-	-	114,722	-	114,722	82,280
GST rebates receivable	-	-	-	-	-	3,705	-	3,705	3,945
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-	3,376	-	3,376	436
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	-	-	3,319	-	3,319	2,919
	197,120	21,641	47,339	33,985	140,750	579,742	605,000	1,625,577	1,536,957
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	22,178	-	22,178	34,755
	\$ 197,120	\$ 21,641	\$ 47,339	\$ 33,985	\$ 140,750	\$ 601,920	\$ 605,000	\$ 1,647,755	\$ 1,571,712
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES									
CURRENT									
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,619	\$ -	\$ 43,619	\$ 41,645
Fund held in trust - CWRA	-	-	-	-	-	6,054	-	6,054	6,054
Employee deductions payable	-	-	-	-	-	21,499	-	21,499	13,094
Deferred contributions - externally restricted (Note 6)	114,533	21,641	47,339	33,985	140,750	151,222	-	509,470	373,875
Deferred contributions - internally restricted (Note 7)	82,587	-	-	-	-	-	-	82,587	-
	197,120	21,641	47,339	33,985	140,750	222,394	-	663,229	434,668
FUND BALANCES	-	-	-	-	-	379,526	605,000	984,526	1,137,044
	\$ 197,120	\$ 21,641	\$ 47,339	\$ 33,985	\$ 140,750	\$ 601,920	\$ 605,000	\$ 1,647,755	\$ 1,571,712

LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 10)

SUBSEQUENT EVENT

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Stephanie Newfield
Chair

Treasurer

DocuSigned by:

Adam Polzen

E63CD5C5B1AE431...

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE**Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended March 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ (152,518)	\$ 228,072
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	19,064	12,560
	<u>(133,454)</u>	<u>240,632</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Contributions receivable	(32,442)	158,019
GST rebates receivable	240	585
Interest receivable	(2,940)	(59)
Prepaid expenses	(400)	-
Accounts payable	1,974	(25,908)
Fund held in trust - CWRA	-	(5,000)
Employee deductions payable	8,405	(485)
Deferred contributions - externally restricted	135,595	(241,476)
Deferred contributions - internally restricted	82,587	-
	<u>193,019</u>	<u>(114,324)</u>
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>59,565</u>	<u>126,308</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	(6,487)	(40,415)
Proceeds on disposal of short term investments	605,000	280,000
Purchase of short term investments	(605,000)	(605,000)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<u>(6,487)</u>	<u>(365,415)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	53,078	(239,107)
Cash - beginning of year	<u>842,377</u>	<u>1,081,484</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 895,455	\$ 842,377

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (the "Society") is a not-for-profit society, incorporated in 2000 under the Societies Act of Alberta and registered as a charity on September 11, 2015 under the Income Tax Act. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Society operates to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem functioning in the North Saskatchewan River Watershed within Alberta. The Society is governed and guided by the Board of Directors elected by members within the watershed. The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director and staff.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

Fund accounting

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund accounts for the Society's operating and administrative activities and surplus or deficiency of revenues over expenditures from any completed project(s). This fund reports the contributions for general purposes.

All other funds are externally restricted for the activities that are indicated by the fund description.

The Restricted Fund is internally restricted for the purposes described in Note 7.

The Society may refund the Restricted Funds surplus from completed projects to the funder(s) at the end of the grant agreements.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of cash on hand and bank balances, net of cheques issued and outstanding at the reporting date.

Short term investments

Short term investments are comprised of guaranteed investment certificates with maturity dates of less than one year.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	55%	declining balance method
Furniture and fixtures	20%	declining balance method

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

The Society regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

On July 1, 2019 the Society adopted the new accounting standard ASNPO 4433 - Tangible capital assets held by not-for-profit organizations. This standard is applied on a prospective basis. As a result of the implementation of this new standard, the society has updated their policy as it relates to the impairment of tangible capital assets as follows:

When conditions indicate a tangible capital asset is impaired, the carrying value of the tangible capital asset is written down to the asset's fair value or replacement cost. The write down of the tangible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of operations. A write-down shall not be reversed.

Revenue recognition

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

The Society recognizes revenues when they are earned, specifically when all the following conditions are met:

- services are provided or products are delivered to customers
- there is clear evidence that an arrangement exists
- amounts are fixed or can be determined
- the ability to collect is reasonably assured.

Donated services and materials

Volunteers contribute time each year to aid the Society in carrying out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value of contributed services and meetings, the financial value of contributed services and meetings are recognized as an estimation in the financial statements.

Contributions in-kind are recognized only to the extent that they would have been purchased in the normal course of operations and their fair value is reasonably determinable. The continued operation of the organization is depending on the continued support of members, volunteers and board of directors.

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Financial instruments

Measurement of Financial Instrument

Financial instruments are financial assets or liabilities of the Society where, in general, the Society has the right to receive cash or another financial asset from another party or the Society has the obligation to pay another party cash or other financial assets.

The Society initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The Society subsequently measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, short term investments, and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost are tested for impairment, at the end of each year, to determine whether there are indicators that the asset may be impaired. The amount of the write-down, if any, is recognized in operations. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The reversal may be recorded provided it is no greater than the amount that had been previously reported as a reduction in the asset and it does not exceed original cost. The amount of the reversal is recognized in operations.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 3.80% per annum to 4.60% per annum maturing between September 2023 and March 2024.	\$ 605,000	\$ -
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 0.50% per annum to 0.75% per annum maturing between September 2022 and March 2023.	-	605,000
	<u>\$ 605,000</u>	<u>\$ 605,000</u>

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 54,976	\$ 37,093	\$ 17,883	\$ 29,386
Furniture and fixtures	21,573	17,279	4,294	5,368
	\$ 76,549	\$ 54,372	\$ 22,177	\$ 34,754

5. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Society receives substantial revenues from the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton and is financially dependent on the governments for funding.

	Abbreviation	Project fundings	Start Date	End Date
Alberta Environment and Parks	General Fund	310,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
	Riparian Health			
Alberta Environment and Parks	Action Plan	130,000	01/04/2019	31/03/2024
	Watershed			
Alberta Environment and Parks	Communication	109,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2026
EPCOR	General Fund	235,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
	Wetland			
EPCOR	Strategies	140,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2026
Total		\$ 924,000		

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED

Deferred contributions represent unspent externally restricted contributions for the projects and unrestricted contributions for the NSWA's operations. The changes in the deferred contributions balances are summarized for 2022 - 2023 as follows:

	21-22 Deferred Revenue	22-23 Revenue Collected	22-23 Revenue Recognized	23-24 Deferred Revenue
Alberta Environment and Parks	-	\$ 310,000	\$ (310,000)	-
EPCOR	-	235,000	(235,000)	-
Edmonton Community Foundation	-	82,600	(82,600)	-
Municipal contributions	132,381	201,625	(182,784)	151,222
Alberta Community Partnership	-	68,529	(68,529)	-
Canadian Agricultural Partnership	85,913	-	(85,913)	-
Educational Videos for All	43,909	25,000	(34,924)	33,985
Pembina Regional Lake	-	27,000	(5,359)	21,641
Riparian Health Action Plan	66,864	-	(57,548)	9,316
Riparian Web-Portal	44,808	10,315	(7,784)	47,339
Watershed Communiton	-	140,750	-	140,750
Wetland Strategies	-	109,000	(3,783)	105,217
Total	\$ 373,875	\$ 1,209,819	\$ (1,074,224)	\$ 509,470

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - INTERNALLY RESTRICTED

Deferred contributions represent unspent internally restricted contributions for the NSWA's project. The changes in the deferred contributions balances are summarized for 2022 - 2023 as follows:

	21-22 Deferred Revenue	22-23 Revenue Collected	22-23 Revenue Recognized	23-24 Deferred Revenue
State of the Watershed	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ (17,413)	\$ 82,587

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

8. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MAJOR SOURCES

Contributions from major sources recognized as revenues are as follow:

	2023	2022
Restricted funds		
Alberta Community Partnership	68,529	27,501
Canadian Agricultural Partnership	85,913	165,241
Educational Videos for All	34,924	6,160
Riparian Health Action Plan	57,548	32,028
WRRP - Vermilion	-	64,331
Restricted funds	246,914	295,261
General funds		
Alberta Environment and Parks	310,000	310,000
EPCOR	235,000	235,000
Municipal contributions	182,784	170,251
Edmonton Community Foundation	82,600	77,600
General funds	810,384	792,851
Total contributions from major sources	\$ 1,057,298	\$ 1,088,112

9. RESERVE FUND

	2023	2022
Operating Reserve Fund	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Society Dissolution Reserve Fund	205,000	205,000
	\$ 605,000	\$ 605,000

The Operating Reserve Fund is internally restricted and designated by the Board for costs associated with managing annual operating budget surpluses and deficits and providing funding to support special projects or new opportunity initiatives.

The Society Dissolution Reserve Fund is internally restricted and designated by the Board for costs associated with winding down if the society is dissolved or emergencies.

10. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Society has long term leases with respect to its rent premises and computer equipment. The premises lease contains renewal options and provides for payment of utilities, property taxes and maintenance costs. Future minimum lease payments as at March 31, 2023, are as follows:

	Premises	Equipment	Total
2024	\$ 38,642	\$ 9,382	\$ 48,024
2025	38,642	9,382	48,024
2026	32,464	5,644	38,108
	\$ 109,748	\$ 24,408	\$ 134,156

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

11. CONTRIBUTED SERVICES IN-KIND

EPCOR provided the in-kind contribution of staff time in equivalent to 50 cents per capita based on City of Edmonton water and wastewater customer population to support the Society and its efforts to develop and implement watershed planning for the North Saskatchewan River.

Throughout the year, the Society coordinated and engaged in multiple Board and Steering Committee meetings, making substantial contributions to various projects.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
EPCOR	280,591	274,932
	<u>280,591</u>	<u>274,932</u>
Riparian Health Action Plan	65,648	60,690
Board meetings - NSWA	64,330	56,482
Vermilion River Watershed Management Project	44,430	30,977
Sturgeon River Watershed SC and TAC	28,178	21,165
Headwaters Alliance	10,038	13,430
Watershed Videos	3,251	13,324
Lake Watershed Stewardship Groups	14,956	5,419
Communication	170	1,487
State of the Watershed	7,650	-
Wetland Strategy	5,461	-
	<u>244,112</u>	<u>202,974</u>
Total contributed services In-Kind	<u>\$ 524,703</u>	<u>\$ 477,906</u>

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Society's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2023.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. Cash and short term investments are in place with major financial institution. Accounts receivable consists of receivable from municipalities and accrued interest on investments. The Society does not believe it is subject to any significant concentration of credit risk.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Society is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its members and other related sources, long-term debt and accounts payable. It is the Society's opinion that there is no significant liquidity risk as of March 31, 2023.

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (*continued*)

(c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Program manages exposure through its normal operating activities. The Society is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its floating interest bearing assets. The Society minimizes the risk by investing in guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 3.80% to 4.60% per annum. The guaranteed investment certificates are in place with a major financial institution.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Watershed Grants

(Schedule 1)

Year Ended March 31, 2023

	Canadian Agricultural Partner	Riparian Action Plan	State of the Watershed	Wetland Strategies	2023	2022
REVENUES						
Contributions - grants	\$ 85,913	\$ 57,548	\$ -	\$ 3,784	\$ 147,245	\$ -
Contributions - municipal funding	-	-	-	-	-	19,621
Interest income	329	960	1,782	1,838	4,909	79
Reimbursements	-	-	-	-	-	27,500
	<u>86,242</u>	<u>58,508</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>5,622</u>	<u>152,154</u>	<u>47,200</u>
EXPENSES						
Communications and promotions	1,140	-	-	2,336	3,476	-
Meetings and conventions	552	481	-	-	1,033	-
Office expenses	-	81	-	71	152	94
Salaries and benefits	83,072	62,255	10,756	3,070	159,153	4,706
Technical and consulting fees	-	26,057	7,687	-	33,744	22,700
Travel and accommodation	1,478	134	752	145	2,509	-
Website costs	-	-	-	-	-	19,700
	<u>86,242</u>	<u>89,008</u>	<u>19,195</u>	<u>5,622</u>	<u>200,067</u>	<u>47,200</u>
OTHER INCOME						
Internal grants	-	30,500	17,413	-	47,913	-
	<u>86,242</u>	<u>58,508</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>5,622</u>	<u>152,154</u>	<u>47,200</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES						
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



NSWA
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN AND BUDGET

2023-2024

March 2023

NSWA 2023-2024 Operational Plan

Final 29 March 2023

Strategic Goal #1: The NSWA supports collaborative partnerships

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary	Headwaters Alliance (HA)	Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
		Plan and deliver a Headwaters tour
	Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)	Complete Sturgeon basin water quality trend analysis
		Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
	Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)	Transition from VRWA Society
		Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
		Develop a youth-focused watershed science activity book
	WaterSHED Monitoring Program	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation
		Deliver communications targeting general awareness, stakeholder and academic use of data
	Designated Industrial Zone	Support IH-DIZ Water Task Team
Contribute to Aquatic Ecosystem Health Study Sub-task Team and LSPC Model Update		
Contribute to LSPC Model Update Sub-task Team		
Lake Stewardship Groups	Support the Wabamun Watershed Management Council	
NSR Basin Science and Knowledge Mobilization Steering Committee	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation	
Developing	Indigenous Engagement	Establish Program funding
		Develop and present youth water day sessions
		Explore and deliver an Elder sharing circle
		Deliver Chief and Council presentations
		Advance internal NSWA learning
	Edmonton Creeks Initiative	Establish and operate a project governance group
Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)	Develop working relationship	
Beaverhills Subwatershed	Explore developing a strategic plan for the HUC 6 Beaverhills watershed	
Supporting	Applied and Academic Research Projects	Support Dr. Patrick Hanington (UofA) - Alberta Innovates - "Early detection and rapid response to aquatic invasive species and species at risk using environmental (e)DNA and metabarcoding"
		Support Dr. Anas Usoof - MITACs Postdoc collaboration with UofA - "Are human land uses impacting stream ecosystems in central Alberta?"
		Support Dr. William Zhang (UofA) - NSERC - "Monitoring and Modelling Water Quality under Ice Affected Conditions in Rivers"
	Beaver Hills Biosphere	Participate on Science Committee
	CABIN Eastern Slopes Collaborative Working Group	Participate in meetings, provide training, assist/support funding applications
	fRI Research Water and Fish Program	Participate on Activity Team
	<i>Water for Life</i> partnerships	Contribute to WPAC Collective activities as appropriate
		Contribute to Alberta Water Council activities as appropriate

Strategic Goal #2: The NSWA is a leader in watershed planning

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary	NSRB Wetland Strategy	Develop and socialize the draft strategy
		Finalize and approve the strategy
		Develop implementation plan for the wetland strategy
		Develop the wetland data initiative to advance wetland-specific spatial products
		Grant management and reporting (WRRP Wetlands Grant)
	Regional Lakes Stewardship	Support the Lake Stewardship Community of Practice
		Select and restore a lakeshore site
	Riparian Health Action Plan	Develop a Best Management Practices Guide (2 reports and 3-part summer workshop series)
		Develop a setback calculator
		Deliver Riparian Web Portal Outreach- Riparian 101 and 102 Training Series
		Maintain the Riparian Web Portal
		Develop a Phase 2 Riparian Roadmap
		Develop landowner profiles for existing riparian assessments
		Finalize the Riparian Policy Report (Environmental Law Centre)
		Grant management and reporting (WRRP)
	State of the Watershed	Establish indicators and assessment methods
Supervise MITACS intern and tasks related to SoW		
Data analysis and visualization		
Engage stakeholders and partners in SoW development		
Developing	Natural Assets Roadmap	Develop partnerships and working relationships
		Roadmap development
		Grant application and management
	NSR Heritage River Designation	Support designation process
	NSRB Hydrologic Modelling and Scenarios (WaterSMART)	Establish stakeholder committee to support scenario planning
		Grant and funding management
	Riparian Health Action Plan	Develop a Phase 2 Riparian Roadmap
	Phase 2 Grant Application	

Strategic Goal #3: The NSWA promotes watershed knowledge sharing

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary	NSRB Flyover Video	Develop video concept and implementation plan
		Organize and coordinate video development with partners (e.g., EPCOR)
	WaterSHED Knowledge Mobilization	Develop knowledge mobilization plan
		Implement the knowledge mobilization plan
	Alberta Watersheds: Educational Videos for All	Finalizing scripts/storyboards
		Finalize and approve video set
		Communications & Advertising for final videos
		Committee meetings & celebration event
	Community engagement	Engage and direct summer students
		Collaborate on select events with other WPACs
		Arrange community engagement events
	Expanding influence	Develop social media content and expand SM following
		Develop engaging newsletter content and grow newsletter subscriptions
Deliver relevant and interesting webinar and in-person forums		
Geospatial data and visualization	Develop geospatial products	
Information provision	Maintain NSWA website and content	
	Develop mapping products for NSWA and partners	
	Enhance graphic design and presentation where appropriate	
Developing	Expand ability to influence	Develop Youth Water Council concept and seek funding
	Information provision	Community information sessions to engage new audiences (e.g., cultural groups)

Strategic Goal #4: The NSWA remains a functional and sustainable organization

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary	NSWA Board and Society Governance	Administer the NSWA Board
		Deliver the NSWA AGM and Annual Report
		Administer the Executive Committee
		Administer the Finance Committee
		Administer the Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee
		Administer the Communications and Engagement Committee
	NSWA Operations	Guide and direct staff and project work
Overall NSWA and project budgeting and grant tracking		
Developing	NSWA Website	NSWA Website redevelopment
	NSWA Time sheets	Implement a new time management approach

NSWA 2023-2024 Budget

29 March 2023

PURPOSE or ISSUE

Approve the 2023-2024 NSWA Operating Budget

DECISIONS

1. Motion to “Approve the NSWA 2023-2024 operating budget as presented.”
 - o Motion approved 29 March 2023, NSWA Board meeting #161.

PROPOSED 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

- The following operational budget is proposed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

BUDGET SUMMARY	
REVENUES	
AEP	\$ 320,000
EPCOR	\$ 235,000
Municipal Contributions	\$ 150,000
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 66,000
Other Grants	\$ 83,000
Other	\$ 27,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 881,500
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 680,000
Operations	\$ 201,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 881,500
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -

ASSUMPTIONS

- Revenue
 - o Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) operating grant will increase by \$10,000 to \$320,000/year, as per new 4-year grant agreement.
 - o EPCOR and municipal contributions remain unchanged.
 - o Edmonton Community Foundation funding for year 2 (3-year operating grant) is \$83,000.
 - o A transfer of \$66,000 from the Operational Fund Reserve to salary and operational costs.
 - o Increased interest revenue due to higher interest rates on GICs.
- Expenses
 - o No change in number of staff.
 - o Salaries include a 4.13% Cost of Living increase to match municipal rates.
 - o Reduced *Technical Consulting GST* to reflect more typical annual expenditures.
 - o Increased allowance for *Meetings and Conventions* to support in-person meetings across regional partnerships (e.g., Vermilion River Watershed Alliance, Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance, Headwaters Alliance, etc.) and NSWA Board.
 - o Increased *Travel and Accommodation* allowance to reflect current number of staff and increased in-person forums and meetings.

- NSWA will continue to leverage project grants to offset operational costs when possible.

BACKGROUND

- The current NSWA staff compliment includes:
 - o Senior Watershed Coordinators (2)
 - o Watershed Coordinators (2)
 - o Watershed Planning Technician (2)
 - o GIS Analyst (1)
 - o Communications and Graphics Specialist (1)
 - o Outreach and Engagement Coordinator (1)
 - o Executive Director (1)
- Two summer students will join the NSWA for the May to August period.

ATTACHMENTS

- Detailed budget document.
- [Click this link to view a recorded presentation “Overview of the NSWA 2023-2024 Budget”.](#)

APPROVAL

- 22 Feb 2023 – Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the draft budget and put forward the recommended operating budget.
- 3 March 2023 – Executive Committee reviewed the recommended budget, decided on the cost-of-living rate, and endorsed the budget for Board review and approval.
- 29 March 2023 – NSWA Board had budget presentation from Adam Polzen (Treasurer). Motion to approve the NSWA 2023-2024 Operating Budget was approved with no dissenting votes.

NSWA BUDGET	
Revenue	2023-2024
4100 Contributions Municipal	\$ 150,000
4200 Contributions Grants	
Edmonton Community Foundation	\$ 83,000
Can AB Training Grants	
Can Summer Jobs Grant	
4210 Alberta Environment and Parks	\$ 320,000
4215 EPCOR	\$ 235,000
4225 Transfer from Operational Reserve	\$ 66,000
4400 Interest Operational	\$ 500
4420 Interest GIC Reserve	\$ 8,000
4425 Interest GIC Future Op	\$ 16,000
4500 Publication Sales	\$ -
4700 Donations	\$ 3,000
TOTAL Revenue	\$ 881,500

NSWA BUDGET	
Expense	
5100 Accounting and Legal	\$ 55,000
5120 Amortization	\$ 7,500
5130 Bank Charges	\$ 1,000
5140 Meetings and Conventions	\$ 8,000
5170 Communications	\$ 10,000
5180 Educational Forums	\$ 5,000
5200 Fieldwork and Assessment	\$ -
5320 Insurance	\$ 7,000
5600 Computers and Office Supplies	\$ 40,000
5650 Printing and Publications	\$ 2,500
5652 Publications COG	\$ -
5655 Publications Commissions	\$ -
6100 Rent and Utilities	\$ 38,000
6200 Restoration Work GST	\$ -
6300 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 680,000
6320 Technical Consulting GST	\$ 5,000
6350 Telephone and Internet	\$ 7,500
6400 Travel and Accomodation	\$ 10,000
6700 Website	\$ 5,000
TOTAL Expense	\$ 881,500

Surplus/Deficit	\$ -
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BUDGET SUMMARY		
REVENUES		
AEP	\$	320,000
EPCOR	\$	235,000
Municipal Contributions	\$	150,000
Transfer from Reserves	\$	66,000
Other Grants	\$	83,000
Other	\$	27,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	881,500
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Benefits	\$	680,000
Operations	\$	201,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	881,500

Surplus/Deficit	\$	-
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Election of Board of Directors

5 June 2023

PURPOSE OR ISSUE

Provide key information on NSWA Board nominations and elections.

2023 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- A long-standing member of the NSWA Board (Bill Fox, member since 2002, in an Agriculture sector seat) was awarded **lifetime member** status as an advisory member.
- Due to this shift in status, two board positions in the Agriculture sector are open for election in 2023.
- A nominating committee was struck and two agricultural organizations, the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and the Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) were approached to nominate individuals for the NSWA Board.
 - o Both organizations have put forward nominees for the Agriculture sector Board positions.

2023 NOMINEES

Elden Kozak - Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (Sector: Agriculture)

- Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?
 - o *I am volunteering for the position as a representative of the Agricultural Fieldman Association.*
- What experience do you offer and what contributions do you hope to make to the NSWA Board?
 - o *I have been a member of the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance for the past 10 years and thought it would be good to know what's going on in the NSWA. Also, my farm is 3 miles north of the North Saskatchewan River, so it is important away from work as well.*

Miles Wowk - Alberta Beef Producers (Sector: Agriculture)

- Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?
 - o *As per the request from NSWA to send a representative from Alberta Beef Producers. I have been approved by the Board of Directors to represent Alberta Beef Producers for your organization. I feel it is important to bring a producer's perspective to the conversation.*
- What experience do you offer and what contributions do you hope to make to the NSWA Board?
 - o *I have extensive experience with board and committees with Alberta Beef Producers and the Canadian Cattle Association. I feel that I can bring a well rounded perspective in both land and water use and can add value to your organization.*

BACKGROUND - NSWA BOARD

- The Board of Directors includes 10-20 members elected or appointed to represent a variety of sectors and regions throughout the watershed (Figure 1).
 - o Appointed representatives include organizations deemed critical to the NSWA and include the provincial government, government agencies, and water utilities.

- Elected Board representatives are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and include municipal governments, agriculture, industry, non-government organizations, member-at-large, and academia.
- The Board may include non-voting advisory positions, in addition elected/appointed members.

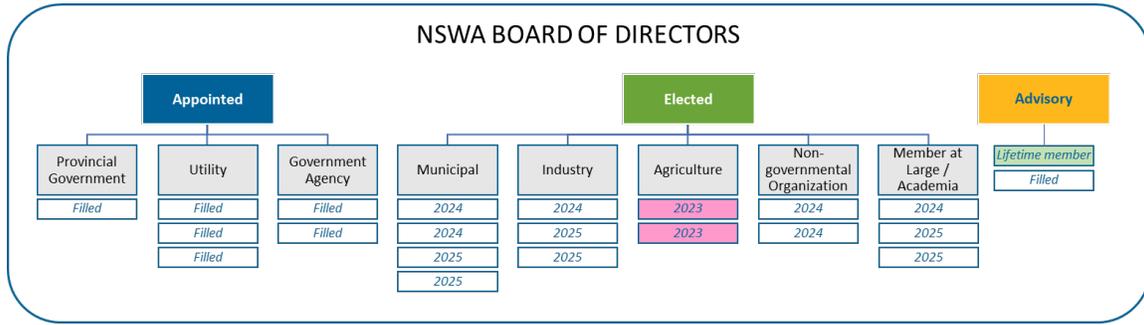


Figure 1 NSWA Board of Directors schematic.

- When a Board Director seat is vacant, the Board establishes a Nominations Committee to seek representation from the sector whose seat is vacant (e.g., agriculture).
 - A call for nominations is sent out six weeks prior to the AGM and interested NSWA members can submit a candidate statement four weeks prior to the AGM.
- Obligations of a Board Member include:
 - Personal commitment and diligence to adequately fulfill Director responsibilities.
 - Vision and leadership to help the NSWA achieve its mission and strategic goals.
 - Advocacy, stewardship, and integrity to serve and promote the interests of the NSWA.
 - Knowledge to advance the work of the NSWA.
 - Collegiality to demonstrate respect for the views of fellow Board members and staff.
 - Securement as willingness to assist in securing resources or services to support NSWA.