

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

Watershed Management Plan

Presented by:

AnnLisa Jensen , Chair

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

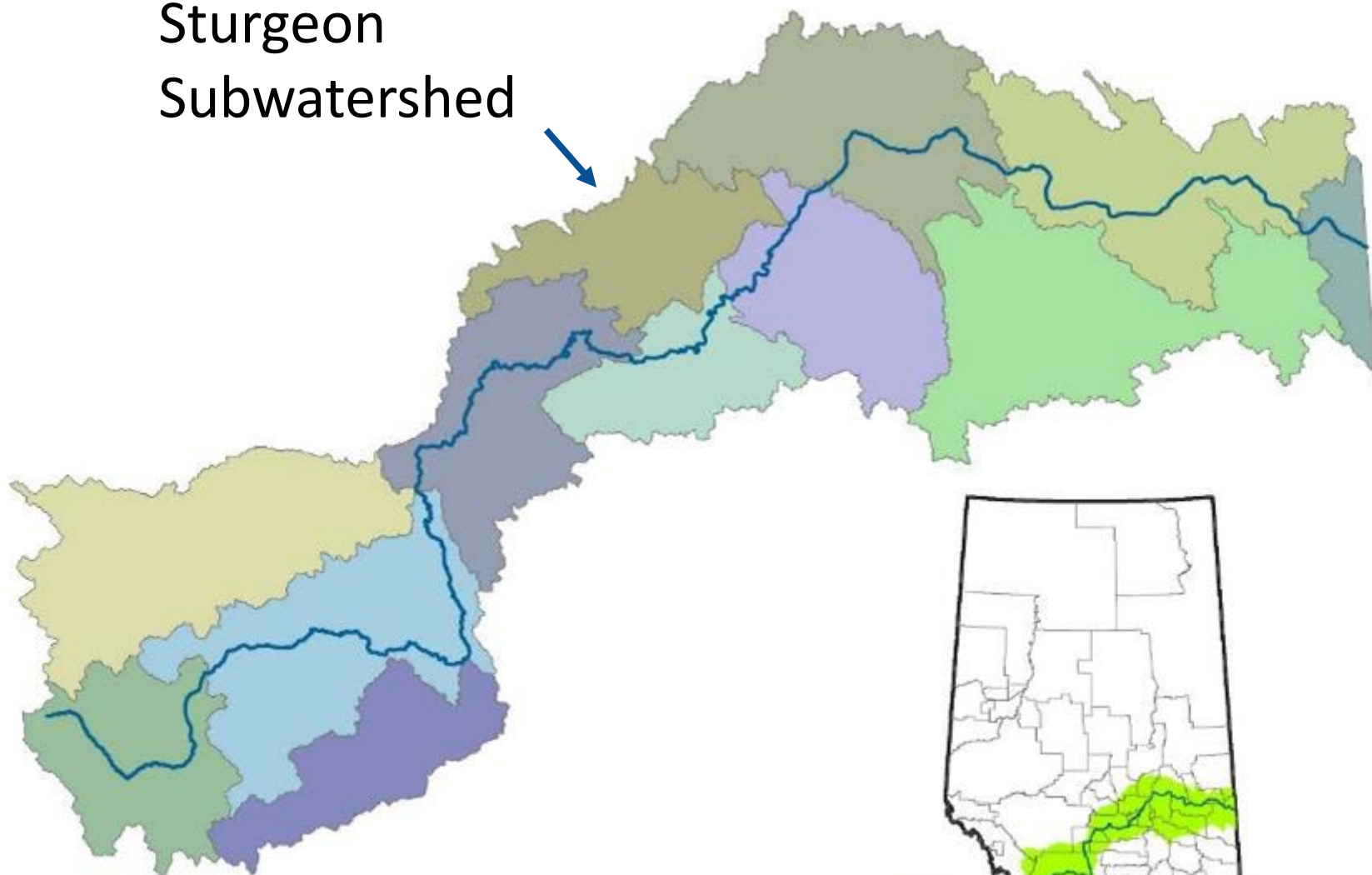




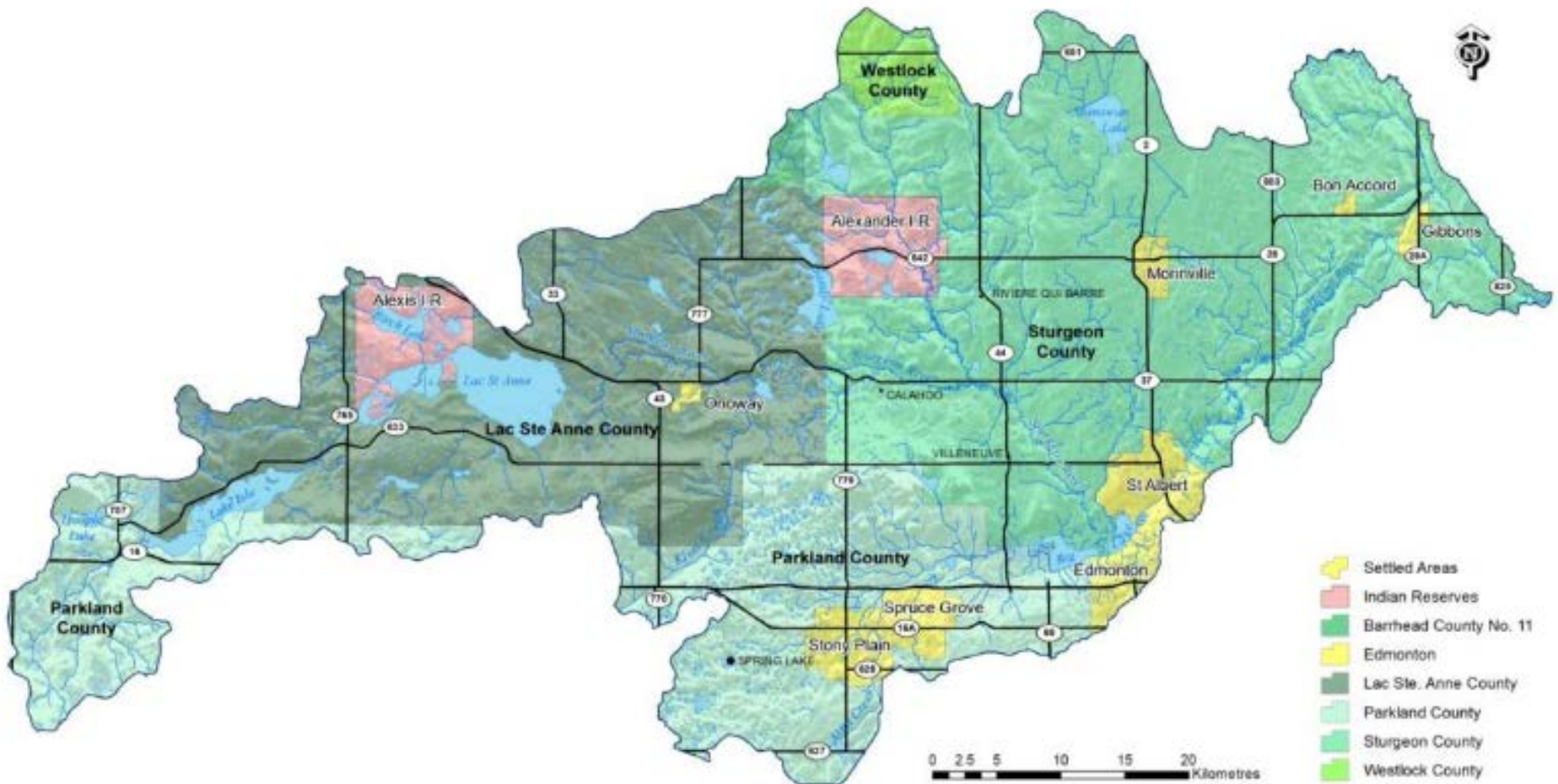
Outline

1. Background
2. Sturgeon River Watershed /state of
3. SRWA formation
4. Technical studies
5. Watershed Management Plan
6. Priorities & Next Steps

Sturgeon Subwatershed



Sturgeon River Watershed





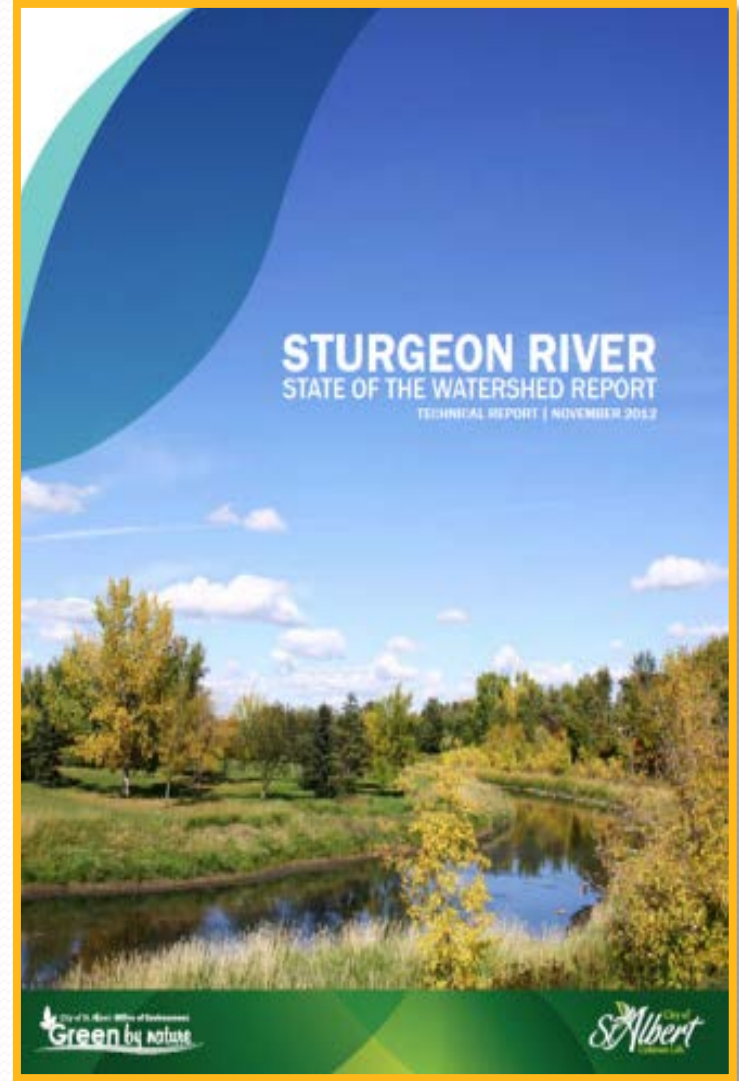
Challenges:

- Rapid urban/country residential expansion
- Agricultural intensification
- Increase in stormwater runoff and pollution
- Loss of natural areas, wetlands, riparian intactness
- Fluctuating water levels
- High nutrient inputs / poor water quality
- Blue-green algae, fish kills, invasive species (flowering rush)



State of Report

- Completed in 2012 by the City of St. Albert.
- Assessed overall ecological health using 15 indicators and gave an overall grade of **FAIR**.
 - ✓ Establish a municipally led watershed group
 - ✓ Fill information gaps by completing technical studies
 - ✓ Develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan



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- Lac St. Anne County
- Parkland County
- Sturgeon County
- City of Edmonton
- City of Spruce Grove
- City of St. Albert
- Town of Gibbons
- Town of Morinville
- Town of Onoway
- Town of Stony Plain
- Village of Alberta Beach
- Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne & County East
- Alexander First Nation
- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Metis Nation of Alberta
- *Alberta Conservation Association*
- *Alberta Environment and Parks*
- *Big Lake Environmental Support Society*
- *Lake Isle/Lac Ste Anne WQM Society*
- *Wagner Natural Area Society*

Why “municipally-led”?

- Under the revised (2019) [Municipal Government Act](#), the purpose of a municipality includes *“to foster the well-being of the environment”*.
- Additionally, as per Section 60(1): *“subject to any other enactment, a municipality has the direction, control and management of the bodies of water within the municipality, including the air space above and the ground below”*.
- Municipalities are land use managers, using legislated planning processes to make decisions daily that impact watersheds.
- Boots on the ground who know their backyards well.

Information Gaps

- SRWA partnership secured over \$500,000 in grants
- NSWA coordinated grants and consultants for 8 technical studies and 3 technical bulletins
- Municipal staff vetted reports and their implications
- All reports available on www.nswa.ab.ca



Watershed Management Plan

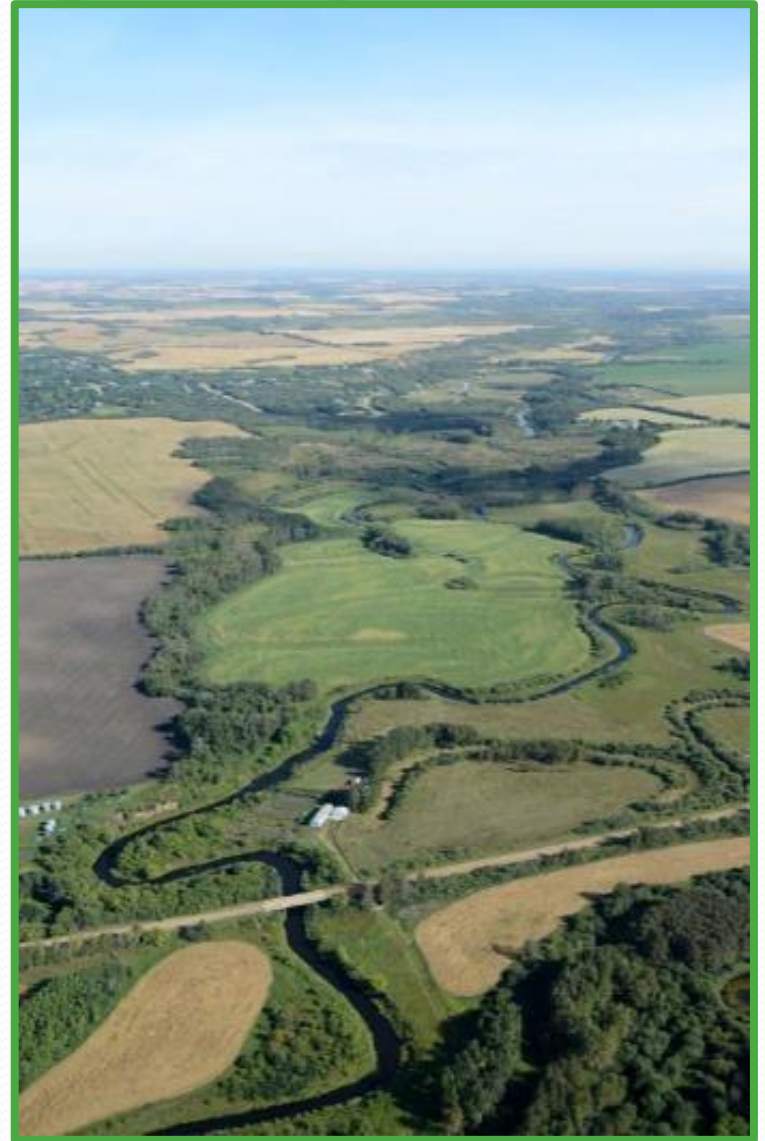


Sturgeon River
Watershed
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2020

- ✓ Watershed approach
- ✓ Clear goals and performance measures
- ✓ Voluntary alignment of policies and plans
- ✓ Coordinates intermunicipal collaboration
- ✓ Promotes local and regional stewardship
- ✓ Encourages work to address knowledge gaps

Six Outcomes

1. *Aligned Policies and Plans*
2. *Safe, Secure Drinking Water Supplies*
3. *Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems*
4. *Reliable Water Supplies*
5. *Wise Land Use*
6. *Local and Regional Initiatives*



Watershed Management Plan Implementation



- ✓ Watershed Management Plan outlines outcomes to be addressed over 10 year timeframe
- ✓ Work will be prioritized by Steering and Technical Committees based on importance and timeliness of actions and resource availability.

Alberta Community Partnership grant of \$200,000 (2020 – 2023) will address priority short term actions

Priorities and Next Steps

2021 - 2023

- Riparian and Wetland Conservation and Restoration Strategies
- Water Quality/Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program
- Watershed Planning Alignment and Tools (flood risk areas, riparian setbacks, environmentally sensitive areas, overlay maps)
- Communications and Engagement (Educational forums, workshops, information resources)



In Conclusion:

- Municipalities can work across boundaries...
- Can leverage financial and in-kind resources...
- Can commission studies to fill information gaps...
- Can integrate learnings into legislated policy and planning processes (IDP, MDP, LUB, ASP, SP, etc.)

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*Thank You !
Questions?*

www.nswa.ab.ca



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