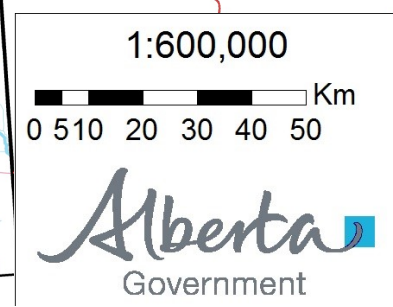
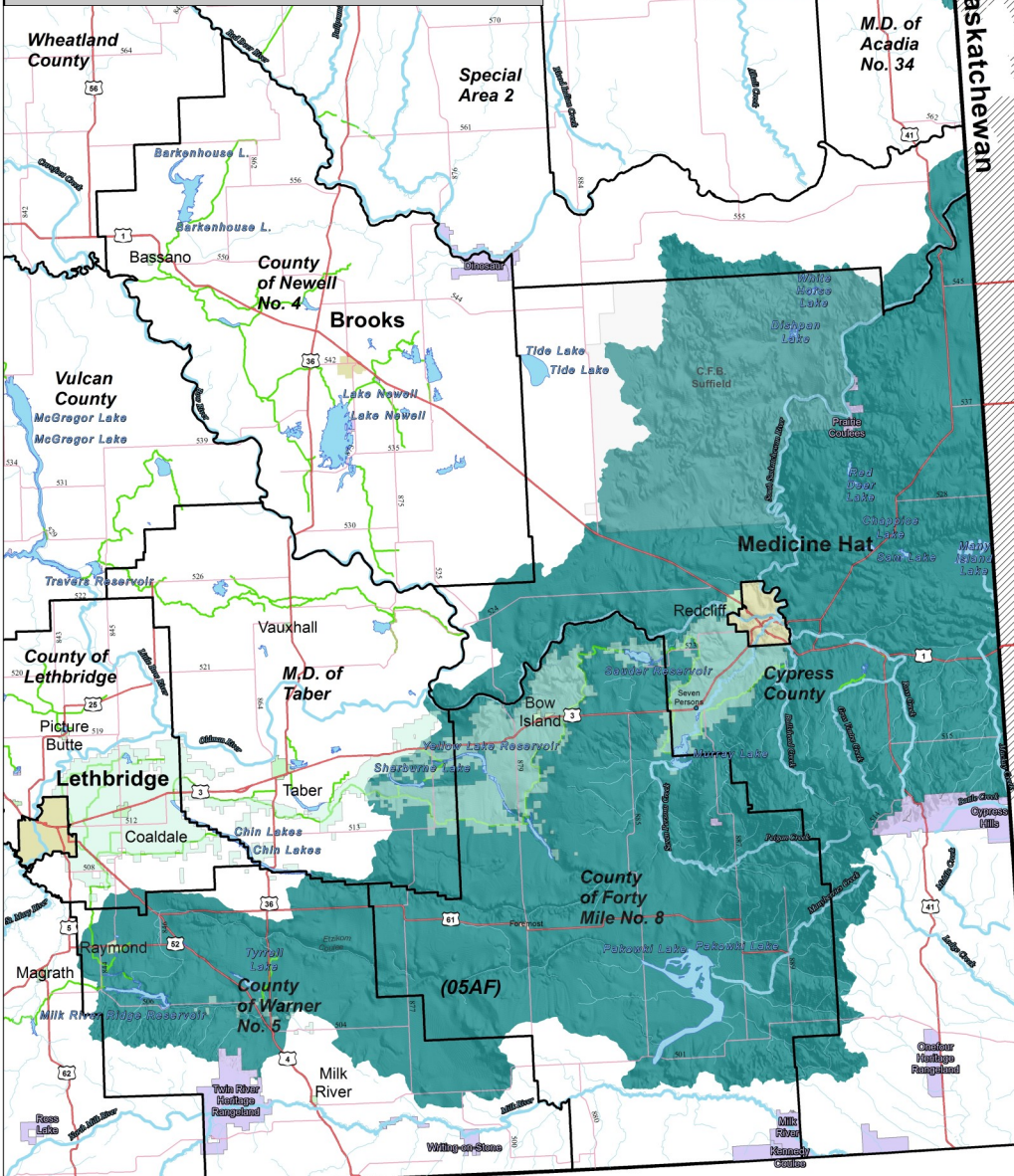
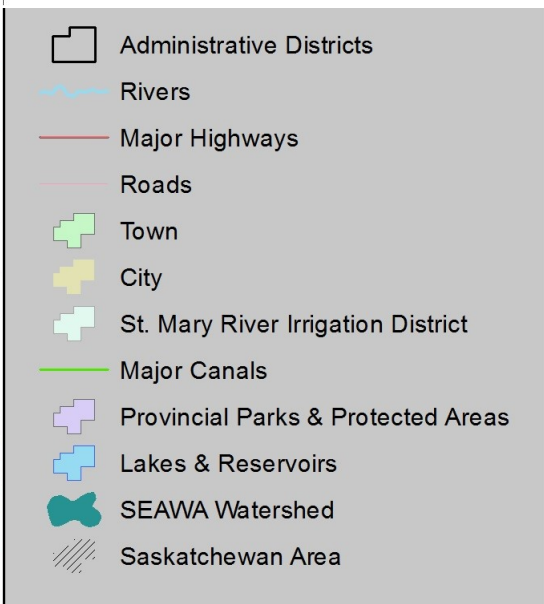




Annual Report 2017-2018

SEAWA Watershed



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Alberta Environment and Parks recognizes the important role that SEAWA and the other Watershed Organizations in the Province play, by providing operational grant funding in a timely fashion that enables us to meet our obligations.

Other Federal and Provincial grants have enabled SEAWA to conduct an aerial assessment of the Seven Persons Creek Watershed, continue to provide education and outreach programs, and to engage in several restoration projects.

Corporate donations have provided some additional funding for specific projects.

I would like to thank all of the people that donate their time and energy to serve on the various committees. Their dedication, professional and positive attitudes keep SEAWA running smoothly.

Thank you to Marilou and her staff, and to the volunteers that they were able to recruit for some of the restoration projects.

Thanks to all that attend SEAWA's many events throughout the year.

Thank you as well to The Medicine Hat College, The City of Medicine Hat, and other participating groups for their ongoing support.

If you aren't a member of SEAWA please consider joining the organization, and if you are a member, please consider serving on one of the committees.

Garry Lentz

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been two years since I've joined SEAWA. It has been a challenging couple of years but always productive, energetic, and rewarding. The previous year was about rebuilding the organization, reconnecting with stakeholders, listening to issues raised by stakeholders, and search for funding opportunities for collaborative stewardship projects. This year, in addition to the operational grant provided by Alberta Environment and Parks, SEAWA was fortunate to be a recipient of riparian restoration project funding. We have hired and trained new staff to enable project implementation. We have started project promotion, and recruitment of project partners for on-the-ground restoration work to start by April 2018. Riparian restoration in the SEAWA watershed involves the challenge of developing and applying practical methods that are appropriate to the semi-arid climate and ecology of the grassland natural region, and the local soil and landforms (coulees). Restoration methods should have the context of the irrigation infrastructure that has been integrated into the creek system (tributaries), and the predominant land use of irrigated agriculture, and cattle ranching. With the participation of landowners and volunteers, we look forward to a successful restoration of 20 km of riparian areas in the next couple of years.

Thank you for the leadership provided by the Chair, and for all the work done by the directors of the Board, members of Committees and by other volunteers and supporters of SEAWA.

Marilou Montemayor, M.E.S., P. Ag.

ENHANCING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

It was a year full of enthusiasm and energy. Key stakeholders were keen on seeing SEAWA provide leadership on practical watershed stewardship projects. Stewardship is one of the roles (Program Areas) of a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC). The other roles are: watershed assessment, watershed management planning, and community engagement, education, and outreach.

SEAWA was awarded project funding for riparian areas assessment and restoration (riparian project). A multi-year grant (April 2017 to March 2020) was received from the Government of Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP). The federal government's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP) funding for the same project is to be implemented within the period April 2018 to November 2018. Progress reports, plans and budget revisions were submitted to funders.

The aerial assessment of riparian areas in the Seven Persons Creek watershed was contracted out to a consulting firm. The project was to be completed in April 2018.

Recruitment of restoration partners was started and is ongoing. Additional information is accessible at www.seawa.ca, Projects page.

The water quality portion of the riparian project was funded through a donation from Plains Midstream Canada and Alberta Irrigation Projects Association.

New staff members were recruited to implement the project: Patrick Jablkowski, Watershed Coordinator, joined on June 16, 2017 and Natasha Rogers, Restoration Intern joined on March 16, 2018. The Restoration Intern wage was subsidized by United Nations Association—Canada.

Seline Solis joined on May 1, 2017 as a summer student and delivered SEAWA's summer outreach program. The summer student wage was subsidized by the Canada Summer Jobs program.

In addition to organizational and administrative tasks, the Executive Director, Marilou Montemayor, provided overall

project management, scientific/ technical expertise for the project, was primary author of educational materials, and guided the implementation of communications and outreach activities.

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 8, 2017. Ten new members joined the SEAWA board which brought the total to 16, out of the maximum 17. Stuart Murray, Chairperson stepped down and remained active as Past Chair on the Board, and the Executive and Technical Committees. Garry Lentz was elected as the new Chairperson. Bylaw, Mission Statement and other policy document amendments were approved. A new Employee Manual was approved.

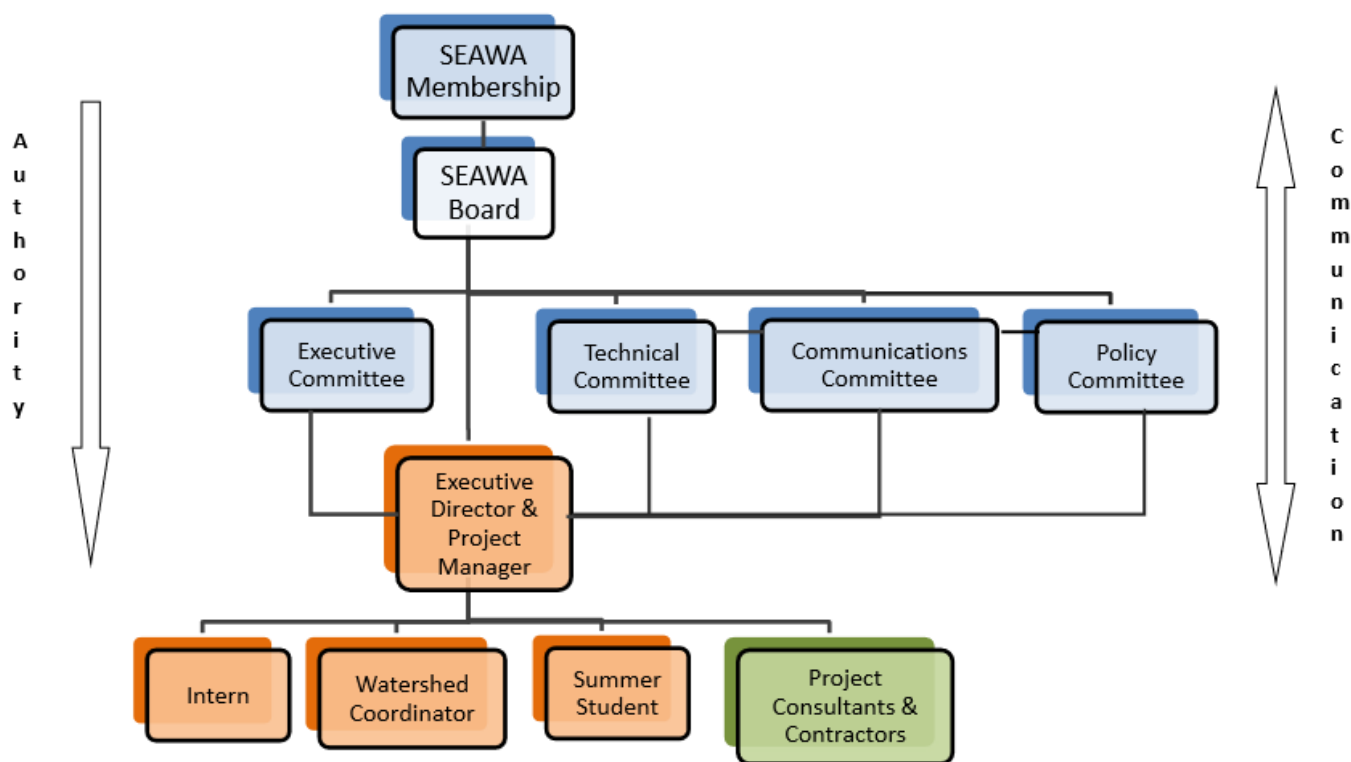
The Fundraising and Human Resources Committees were combined with the Executive Committee for efficiency. The Technical Committee has been very active this year due to the start of the riparian project. The Communications Committee provided suggestions and guidance in the implementation of SEAWA's Communication Strategy as well as of the communication plan of the riparian project.

SEAWA's organizational structure was updated.

A Special Meeting of the membership was held on January 8, 2018 to approve bylaw amendments.

Operational documents were prepared and submitted to Alberta Environment & Parks as part of the operational grant application: Annual Operation Plan and Budget 2018-2019 and an updated Communications Strategy 2017-2020. Grant 2016-2017 closure (June 30, 2017) and interim 2017-2018 (October 17, 2017) reports were submitted.

SEAWA is looking forward to an increase in funding and/or donations to enhance staff capacity as well as to implement watershed studies, and educational and stewardship projects. SEAWA is also working towards increase in volunteer participation on the board and committees, and stewardship initiatives.



SEAWA Organizational Structure, February 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

James Babe, Licensee—Non-irrigator
 Alf Belyea, Municipal Government—Rural (Cypress County)
 Daygan Fowler—Youth
 Gary Franz—License (St. Mary River Irrigation District)
 Audrey Goodwin—Provincial Government (Alberta Environment & Parks)
 Roland Kappel—Agriculture
 Russell Krasnuik—Academic Institutions & NGO
Garry Lentz—Open Seat, **Chair**
Ron Linowski—Eco-Tourism & Environmental Groups, **Secretary**

Vanessa Linowski—Eco-Tourism & Environmental Groups
 Ron McMullin—Open Seat
 John Michalopoulos—Municipal Government-Urban (City of Medicine Hat)
Stuart Murray—Agriculture, **Past Chair**
 Karen Saffran—Member-at-Large
Olivia Sederberg—Member-at-Large, **Treasurer**
Sandy Vanderburgh—Academic Institutions & NGO, **Vice-Chair**
 Janelle Villeneuve—Provincial Government (Alberta Agriculture & Forestry)

Board Training with Julie Friesen, Alberta Culture & Tourism, April 6, 2017



COMMITTEES



Executive Committee

March 14, 2018 meeting. Left to Right—Marilou Montemayor, Ron Linowski, Stuart Murray, Garry Lentz, Sandy Vanderburgh

Hiring Committee

May 4, 2017 meeting. Left to Right: Olivia Sederberg, Garry Lentz, Stuart Murray, Ron Linowski, and Daygan Fowler



Technical Committee

Karen Saffran—Chair	Cathy Linowski
Garry Lentz	Stuart Murray
Doug Knowles	Natalie Kromrey
John Michalopoulos	Ray Walker
Ivan Shukster	Colleen Walford
Larry Leipert	Janna Casson
Dave Matz	Jason Storch
Maggie Romuld	Jamie Meeks
Allison Campbell	Hugh Armstrong



Technical Committee meeting, March 16, 2018. Left to Right—Garry Lentz, Larry Leipert, Karen Saffran, and Ivan Shukster; Ryan Walker joined by phone

Policy Committee

Audrey Goodwin
Sandy Vanderburgh

Communications Committee

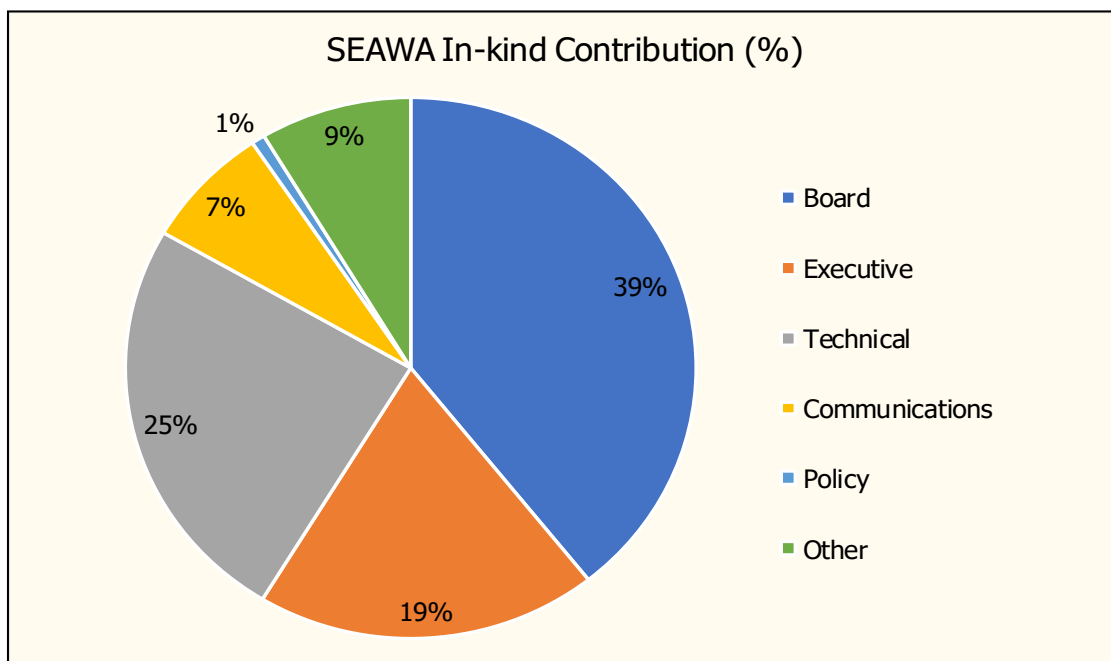
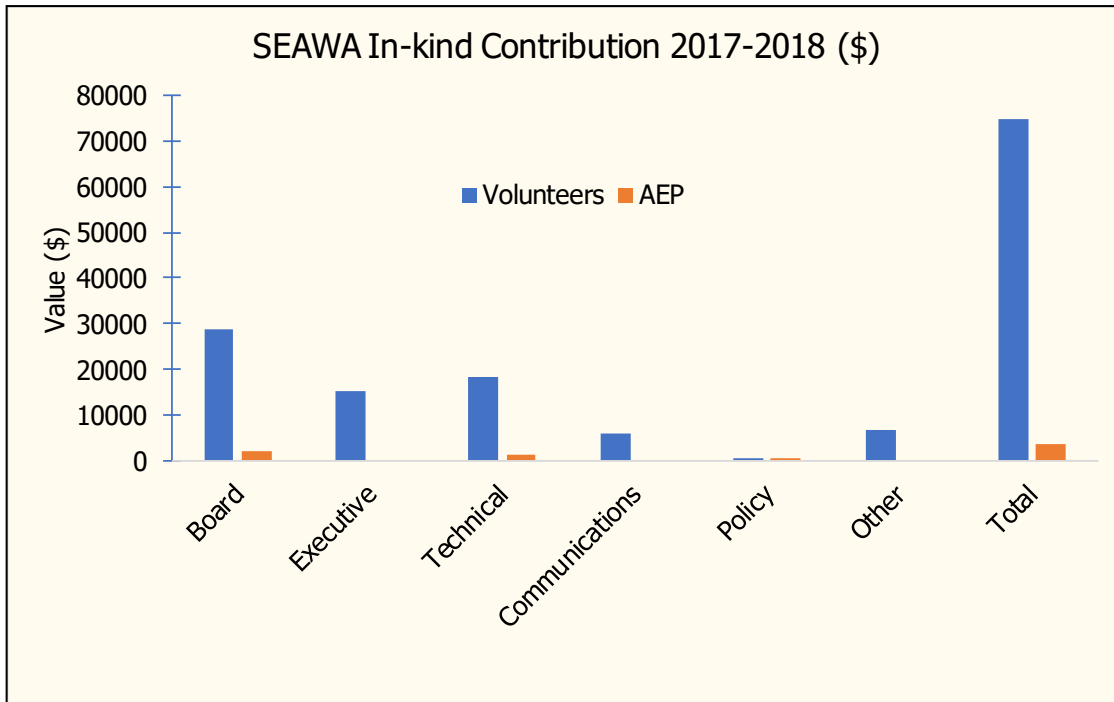
Daygan Fowler—Chair
Cathy Linowski
Martha Munz-Gue
Les Pearson
Maggie Romuld
Olivia Sederberg

Basin Advisory Council

John Michalopoulos, City of Medicine Hat
Larry Leipert, Town of Redcliff
Ryan Hornung, Methanex
Kennedy Fandrick, Cypress County
Amy Moore, Canadian Forces Base—Suffield
SEAWA Staff: Marilou Montemayor, Patrick Jablkowski

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

SEAWA is financially supported by a cash grant from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), and contributions from federal government programs, other organizations and individuals. However, volunteer services (valued as in-kind contribution) form the backbone of SEAWA as a fully functional WPAC, through its Board and Committees, partners and individuals. In-kind contribution was determined based on services provided (board and committees—\$80/hr, labour—\$25/hr, students—\$18/hr); and non-reimbursed travel expenses incurred (\$0.505/km, accommodation, and meals) by SEAWA volunteers. The total in-kind contribution of volunteers for the fiscal year under report was **\$78,447**. The total in-kind contribution from AEP staff was \$3,600.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Alberta Environment and Parks funded SEAWA's core operations, and community engagement activities with \$250,000 for 2017-2018. Project funding of \$221,000 (April 2017 to March 2020) was received through the Government of Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program. Additional contributions came from the Canada Summer Jobs Program, Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Plains Midstream Canada, and other individual donors. SEAWA maintains a reserve fund that was raised from donations in the prior years (2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2018 (12 months)

(Unaudited)

ASSETS	<u>\$ 315,596</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 204,896
NET ASSETS	<u>110,700</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 315,596</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES	<u>\$ 292,452</u>
EXPENDITURES	<u>286,000</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 6,452</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

BALANCE—BEGINNING OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 104,248</u>
BALANCE—END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 110,700</u>

WATERSHED STUDIES, PLANNING & STEWARDSHIP

SEAWA's work is guided by *Water for Life—Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*; the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP)*; WPAC Program Areas as prescribed by AEP; and SEAWA's Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals. In addition, stakeholders bring forth ideas and suggestions that are considered in accordance with these guiding policies. With the release of the SSRP, SEAWA has moved from information gathering for state of the watershed reporting, and watershed management planning, to the implementation phase of the regional plan.

Restoration project activities were started:

- Riparian Areas Assessment of the Seven Persons Creek Watershed—contracted out to Stantec
- Restoration partner recruitment - presentations to and conversations with landowners and land managers
- Preparation of landowner application for funding

process and related documents

- Preparation of restoration plans for potential restoration sites
- Project Promotion (brochures distributed at events, post cards mailed-out, advertisement in local newspapers, newsletter, and social media) and Information Sessions (a forum and an open house)
- An applied research plan was finalized

Educational materials were produced:

- Booklet—Riparian Areas and Riparian Plants in the Seven Persons Creek Watershed
- Info-sheet—Recognizing Riparian Ecological Services
- Info-sheet—Understanding Water Quality in the Seven Persons Creek Watershed

More information is available at www.seawa.ca; a new Projects page was created.



Canadian mannagrass, an obligate wetland species, on the shoreline of Seven Persons Creek, Medicine Hat is being crowded (centre) by the invasive reed canary grass, a facultative species, August 2017. The booklet "Riparian Areas and Riparian Plants in the Seven Persons Creek Watershed", produced this year is available at www.seawa.ca, Projects page.



Technical Committee meeting; signing of contract with Stantec, August 31, 2017. Left to Right: Marilou Montemayor, Nick DeCarlo (Stantec), Larry Leipert, Cathy Linowski, Garry Lentz, John Michalopoulos, and Karen Saffran



Riparian areas educational and project information event, November 2, 2017, Medicine Hat. Presided by Garry Lentz, SEAWA Chair. Greetings from the Mayor, city of Medicine Hat, Ted Clugston.



Canada Day 2017, Kin Coulee Park



Medicine Hat College student volunteers, weed-pull at Seven Persons Creek riparian area, September 9, 2017

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS & BUILDING NETWORKS

Collaborative programs and projects, and support to fund these initiatives need relationship building, networking, that enable the creation of partnerships. Cooperation between governments and NGOs within the greater South Saskatchewan Region, the Prairie Region, and the Saskatchewan River Basin (upstream and downstream watersheds) is also necessary for a watershed-scale management approach to environmental issues. Therefore, SEAWA participates in activities that build, renew, and strengthen relationships; and forms partnerships among the core and extended networks that share a common interest in water and watershed management. These activities help SEAWA achieve its goals and further the recognition of SEAWA as a relevant and useful organization to stakeholders.

SEAWA staff, Directors of the Board, committees, members, and stakeholders participated in several activities throughout the year:

Conversations about potential collaborative riparian projects with: University of Alberta, City of Medicine Hat, St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID), County of Warner, County of Forty Mile, and private landowners.

Feedback provided: AEP Review of WPAC roles

Public consultation—Alberta Energy Regulator public consultation at Medicine Hat—Shaping Future Conversations, and Town of Redcliff Municipal Development Plan.

Conferences and Workshops: attended Climate Change and the Future of Energy, Mixed Grass Forum, Medicine Hat; and Alberta Ecotrust Environmental Gathering, Calgary. Presented at Farming Smarter

Conference, Medicine Hat.

Network Meetings attended: Intra-Basin Water Coordinating Committee meeting, and provided feedback on committee Terms of Reference; South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan 2006 review project, WPAC Managers and Coordinators meetings, AEP and South Saskatchewan Region WPACs meeting, SMRID meeting on riparian areas project at Sauder reservoir, AEP -WPAC Forum, Edmonton; Environmental Land Reclamation Program Advisory Committee, Medicine Hat College; Water Channel portal; and presented at the County of Forty Mile Agricultural Services Board meeting.

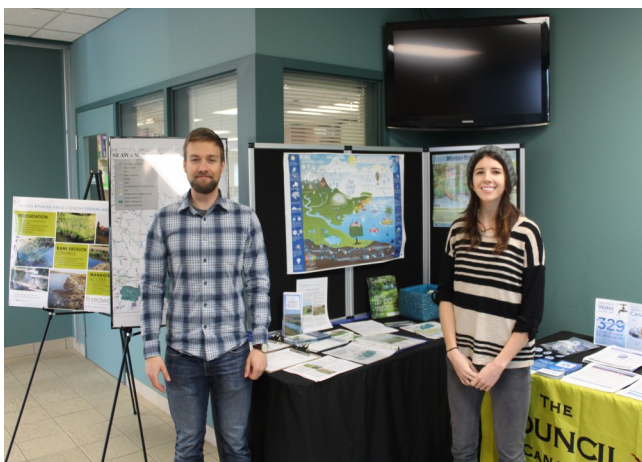
Partnerships: Formalized partnership with Praxis Society, Medicine Hat. Partnership with Grasslands Naturalists is activity or project specific.

Surveys—responded to: Ministry of Labour Wage and Salary survey, and Alberta Energy Regulator survey.

Events—Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Grasslands Naturalists Medicine Hat, and participated with their wildflower walk; staff participated with the Commuter Challenge on Environment Week.

Visit—Minister Shaye Anderson, and Speaker of the House, Legislative Assembly, Hon. Robert Wanner visited SEAWA.

WPAC Summit preparations—prepared an article on SEAWA's 2017 (calendar year) accomplishments for the WPAC Summit 2018 booklet.



World Water Day, Medicine Hat Public Library, March 22, 2018



Educational tour at the city of Medicine Hat wastewater treatment plant and landfill, July 12, 2017; with Hon. Robert Wanner



Minister Shaye Anderson's visit to SEAWA, August 23, 2017

Riparian project open House, Seven Persons Community Hall, February 15, 2018

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & OUTREACH

Educational Forum: Riparian Areas and Project Information Event, November 2, 2017, Medicine Hat.

School and community outreach: The summer student educated school children (Grades 2, 4, 5, and 8) about watersheds with demonstrations of the non-point source pollution watershed model and the wetland model. This Activities covered 5 schools, and a total of 362 children. In These activities were also delivered to three summer camps with a total of 111 children. Praxis Society, Medicine Hat, helped in the delivery of these activities. SEAWA staff volunteered as judges at the science fair of two schools.

SEAWA at community events in Medicine Hat: Canada Day, Stampede (Summer festival), World Water Day at the Medicine Hat Public Library, Vital Signs report, and spring clean-up organized by the city of Medicine hat.

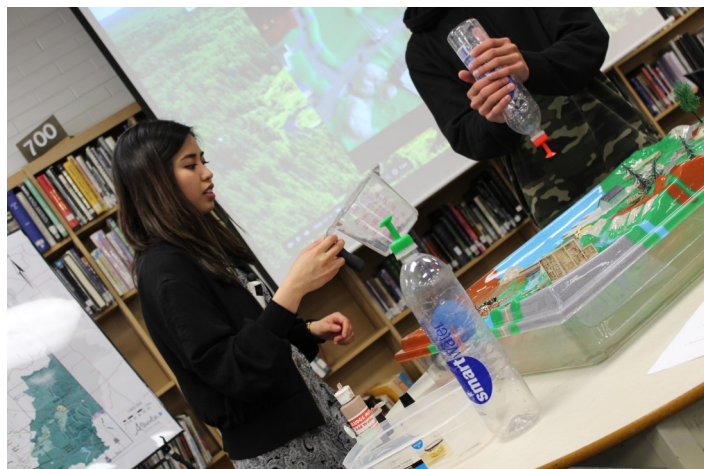
Newsletters: sent out every two months: May, July, September, November 2017; and January, March 2018; they are posted on the SEAWA website, Resources page.

A new **SEAWA Brochure** was finalized and distributed at SEAWA and community events.

Social media interaction is ongoing—**Facebook** (Seawa Watershed) has 300 friends, and **twitter** (@SEAlbertawaters) has 1,900 followers.

Community organizations— membership with Medicine Hat Horticultural Society, Community Garden, and Grasslands Naturalists.

Co-sponsorships: Kiwanis Regional Science Fair 2018 Medicine Hat; Author Talk, Kevin Van Tighem, "Our Place: Changing the Nature of Alberta", Medicine Hat Public Library.



Learning about non-point source pollution in the watershed, and bugs in ponds, summer 2017

MOVING AHEAD

SEAWA is focussed next year on the completion of the aerial riparian areas assessment of the Seven Persons Creek Watershed, on-the-ground riparian restoration work, and further recruitment of partners to participate

in the project. Towards the fall season, SEAWA will look for project grant opportunities that will help address issues identified or raised by its stakeholder.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2017-2020

- Goal 1** SEAWA has sustainable funding, and improved administrative and organization capacity.
- Goal 2** Resources are generated or acquired, the SEAWA watershed is assessed, and watershed knowledge is developed.
- Goal 3** Watershed management plans are developed.
- Goal 4** Stakeholder engagement, and partnerships and networks, are strengthened or enhanced, and education and outreach activities are implemented.
- Goal 5** Resources are generated or acquired, and environmental stewardship projects or initiatives are implemented.
- Goal 6** SEAWA's role in the implementation of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) is established.

Based on the six Strategic Goals above, SEAWA's key activities for the upcoming year are:

Goal 1: Volunteer recruitment for riparian restoration work, charitable status application, continued policy development and update, and performance evaluation of the organization;

Goal 2: Year 2 implementation of the project, *Riparian Areas Assessment and Restoration in the Seven Persons Creek Watershed*, which includes the aerial assessment of riparian areas; and an applied research related to riparian restoration;

Goal 3: None in 2018-2019; (source water protection planning is being proposed for the following year);

Goal 4: Ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy—stakeholder engagement, partnerships, networking, education, and outreach;

Goal 5: Year 2 implementation of the project, *Riparian Areas Assessment and Restoration in the Seven Persons Creek Watershed*, which includes preparation of restoration plans with each project partner, partnership agreements, and on-the-ground restoration work;

Goal 6: Implementation of some of the SSRP recommendations (Goals 2 and 5) and continued conversation/feedback on and topics of water and watersheds, land, air, and biodiversity as they arise.

SEAWA VISION

A healthy watershed that provides balance between social, environmental, and economic benefits.

SEAWA MISSION

SEAWA brings together diverse partners to educate the public, to support knowledge development, and to develop and facilitate the implementation of management plans for the sustainable use of the South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin and the Pakowki Lake watershed.

THANK YOU TO ALL SEAWA SUPPORTERS

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Alberta Culture and Tourism

Alberta Environment and Parks

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association

Government of Canada—Canada
Summer Jobs

Canadian Forces Base—Suffield

City of Calgary

City of Medicine Hat

County of Forty Mile

County of Warner

Cypress County

Cows and Fish

Government of Canada—Department
of Fisheries & Oceans

Grasslands Naturalists, Medicine Hat

John Fennel, Sustainability Resources
Consulting

Medicine Hat College

Methanex

Plains Midstream Canada

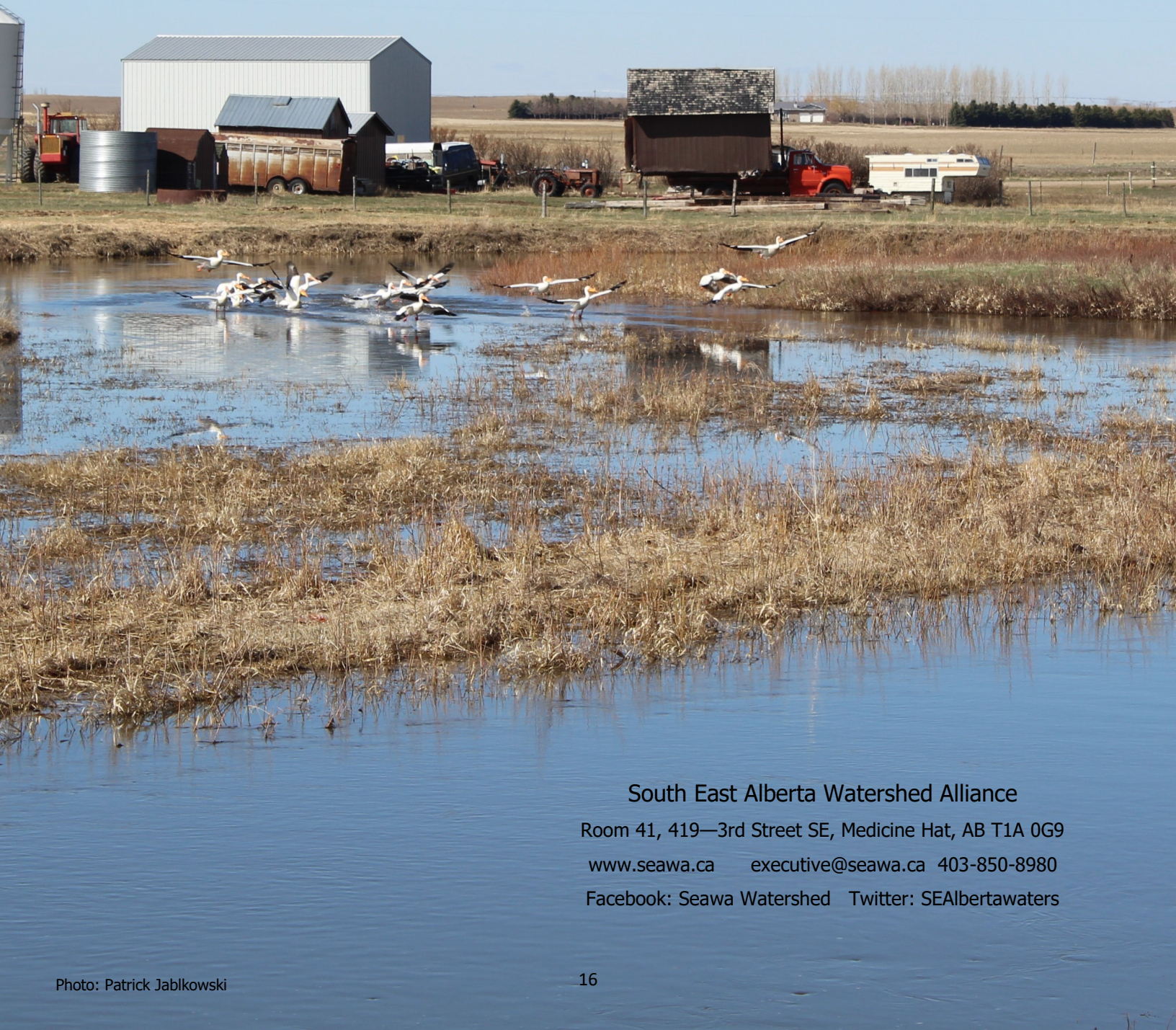
Praxis Society

St. Mary River Irrigation District

Town of Redcliff

United Nations Association—Canada

Individual supporters & volunteers



South East Alberta Watershed Alliance

Room 41, 419—3rd Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0G9

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