

Rural Roots!

This Fall Newsletter is dedicated to our rural partnerships and celebrating our "rural roots" in the watershed.

The **Cypress County Watershed Group (CCWG)** is one of the active watershed stewardship groups connected and contributing to the South East Alberta Watershed Alliance. There are five landowner members of the CCWG that are involved in promoting best management practices, educating people in the watershed, and fostering partnerships in and beyond the watershed for watershed protection.



Rural Watershed Tour

September 19th from 4:00 - 8:00pm

SEAWA and the Cypress County Watershed Group will be meeting the **tour bus** at 3:30pm at Starbucks in Medicine Hat (1296 Trans Canada Way SE) then off to Seven Person's Town Hall for 4:00pm and traveling to three demonstration sites on nearby rangeland. The tour will be followed by a BBQ and short presentations by the CCWG and Cows & Fish. **Public welcome!**
admin@seawa.ca

Alberta Land Use Plan

This year after months of consultation, the Alberta Government has introduced the Draft Land Use Framework to Albertans. As a new watershed planning and advisory council (WPAC), SEAWA is looking forward to participating in the land use planning framework for the Southern Region.

In a recent engagement with County's of Newell, Cypress, and 40-Mile, and the City of Medicine Hat, Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, answered questions about rural and urban needs being met in the plan, and specifically how our watershed planning fits in with the initiatives in the Land Use Framework.

"When it comes to water, Medicine Hat rules," said Morton. **"But the Land Use Framework is the other side of the coin, the water, because obviously what happens on the watersheds effects water quality and quantity."** (Medicine Hat News, August 15th, 2008)

The Southern Alberta Regional Plan (SARP) is expected to be completed in the spring of 2009 as one of the priority regions in the province. The formation of a Land Use Secretariat is underway and terms of reference are being developed for each of the regional planning areas.

Century Storm - 2008 will be remembered!

On July 15th, farmers and ranchers in South East Alberta were hit hard. Many grain producers lost pivots, grain sheds, and even quonsets went flying through the air! A local ranch owner commented on the time consuming and expensive clean up; "Some of us have insurance on some of our equipment, but there were folks here who suffered major damage to their operations and didn't have insurance...that's the way it is out here, sometimes we just take the gamble that it will miss us".

Photos: www.medicinehatnews.com

SEAWA Board of Directors

This past spring, the South East Alberta Watershed Alliance elected its first Board of Directors!

Frank Wetsch, Chair, Individual Public Member

Gary Bierback, Vice Chair, Licensees, St. Mary River Irrigation District

Audrey Goodwin, Secretary, Regulators—Provincial, Alberta Environment

Peter Wallis, Treasurer, Academic Institutions and NGOs, Medicine Hat College

Floyd Haas, Licensee—Non Irrigators, Cypress County

Bill Dearborn, Individual Public Member

Stuart Murray, Land Resource Industry—Agriculture, Seven Persons WSG

Russ Golonowski, Land Resource Industry—Industry, Canadian Fertilizers Limited

Herb Scott, Municipal Government—Rural, Cypress County

Lorine Marshall, Eco-Tourism & Environmental Groups, Grassland Naturalists

Grayson Mauch, Municipal Government—Urban, City of Medicine Hat

Doug Jones, Eco-Tourism & Environmental Groups, Canadian Badlands

LaVar Payne, Regulators—Federal



**absent from photo: Bill Dearborn & Floyd Haas*

New Executive Director

The South East Alberta Watershed Alliance will be hiring an Executive Director this September. Please watch for our Winter Newsletter for an introduction to our new staff!

For more information contact admin@seawa.ca

Pilot Projects of Interest!

Alberta Irrigation Water Use Tracking System



The Milk River metering project is a pilot project under the Water for Life strategy, designed to provide the province of Alberta with experience on water use monitoring, transmission of near real time data, and data storage and reporting in a reliable manner. The collected data provides the basis to view water use information via the internet and to facilitate water users to better manage their own licence allocations and to allow conservation awareness.

www.envinfo.gov.ab.ca/milkriverwateruse

Upcoming Water Events

September 10th: Afternoon of Food for Thought

Growing Alberta presents keynote speaker Dr. Schwarcz Director - McGill Office for Science and Society

<http://www.growingalberta.com/>

September 10th: Bow River Basin Council Fall Forum: "Watershed Management Planning"

<http://www.brbc.ab.ca/>

September 15 - 16th: Decentralised Energy Conference, Calgary Telus Convention Centre

<http://www.ceri.ca/>

September 19th: SEAWA Rural Watershed Tour

<http://www.seawa.ca/>

October 20th: Medicine Hat - Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up

<http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/>

October 22-24th: Annual WPAC Summit hosted by the Old Man Water Council

<http://www.oldmanbasin.org/>

October 28th: Oldman Watershed Council Science Forum at the University of Lethbridge

<http://www.oldmanbasin.org/>