



Preserving Our Lifeline

August 2008

To contact the Bow River Basin Council, call 403-268-4597
Visit: www.brbc.ab.ca

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Norm Carlson

Heather Sinton

BRBC Committees

To join any committee, call 403-268-4597

Education and Communications

Chair Norm Carlson

Legislation & Policy

Chair Judy Stewart

Bow Basin Watershed Management Planning

Steering Committee - Chair Gloria Wilkinson

Technical Committee - Chair Al Sosiak

Knowledge, Data and Research Committee

Chair Dr. Cathy Ryan

Bow River Basin Council

Annual Report 2007- 2008

Message From the Chair - Bill Berzins

This year, the BRBC finished its most ambitious project yet with the completion of Water Quality Objectives for seven major reaches of the river. In the months ahead, we will share our guidelines and more than 60 recommendations with stakeholders throughout the basin and seek their help. The project involved dozens of specialists in our Steering Committee and our Technical Committee - our volunteers invested several thousand hours to produce a truly world-class result.

At the same time, the BRBC continues to establish the framework for stronger participation in regional planning efforts led by the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Province's Land Use Framework (LUF). The Council has spent much of its 17-year existence working collaboratively with land and water managers throughout the region - it is exciting to see that our message of regional cooperation and sustainability has been wholeheartedly embraced within the draft LUF. With a strong and diverse membership, we hope to continue to provide decision-support tools and leadership support as we seek to make the Bow River one of the best-managed basins in the world.

Board Retreat 2007

BRBC Directors spent two days discussing initiatives that will move the organization forward at a retreat in November 2007. On the agenda were: the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan implementation strategy; the Strategic Watershed Assessment Team; the WaterPortal partnership, a research proposal to Alberta Water Research Institute and the Bow River Cumulative Effects study.

BRBC Board Chair Bill Berzins commented that, "It (the retreat) was a very strong reflection of the maturing of the organization and the Directors' commitment as custodians of the organization."



Back row left to right: Zennon Zalusky, Mark Bennett, Karen Natsukoshi, Maureen Bell. Front row: Norm Carlson, Gloria Wilkinson, Earl Wilson, Heather Sinton, Bill Berzins, Cathy Ryan. Not in photo: Chris Vermeeren, Danielle Droitsch. Photo: M. Murray

BRBC proudly works
with the Alberta Water Council

A Year of Learning

BRBC Knowledge, Data and Research Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide leadership in the areas of research, data collection, assessment, integration, information and dissemination. Its tasks include:

- Advise the Board of Directors on research funding proposals received by the BRBC
- Provide guidance and direction on KDR activities within the Council
- Provide expertise on emerging issues within the basin and keep BRBC (and other BRBC standing committees) aware of issues related to BRBC's interests
- Organize technical information exchange forums.

Members 2007:

- Co-chair Cathy Ryan, Associate Prof, Geology and Geophysics, U of C
- Co-chair Al Sosiak Limnologist, AENV
- Lana Robinson (AENV)
- Bert van Duin Water Resources Engineering, Westhoff Engineering
- Brian Meagher Biologist, Trout Unlimited
- Fay Westcott Aquatic Ecologist

Chain Lakes spillway in flood. BRBC file photo



Water Transfer and Allocation Workshop

The BRBC Legislation and Policy hosted a Water Transfer and Allocation Workshop at the Cochrane Ranchhouse May 24. Presenters from Alberta Environment offered information and



answered questions from the attendees. The workshop was well attended with over 60 people braving the spring snow conditions. A feedback form was handed out at the workshop and results will be coming in the future from Alberta Environment (Kevin Wilkinson). All the comments received were very positive and confirmed that this was indeed a topic that the membership and public are very interested in. This workshop was the very first public presentation for this information and comments are welcome on how to improve. Refinements will be made for future workshops.

Watershed Management Planning Workshop

BRBC Watershed Management Planning Workshop Dr. Hans Schreier lead discussions centered on moving the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan and its implementation forward. More than 35 people interacted on topics including GIS database basics, managing environmentally sensitive areas, identification of problem areas and preparation of actions plans.



Photo: Mike Murray

Bow River Watershed Science Forum

More than 65 people participated in the first Annual BRBC Bow River Watershed Science Forum at the University of Calgary. Presentations at the May 1, 2007 event focused on issues relating to headwaters, watershed-scale storm and wastewater effluent and Bow River water quality. It also provided a snapshot of current research taking place in the basin.

BRBC members Yin Deong (City of Calgary), Al Sosiak (Alberta Environment) and Cathy Ryan (University of Calgary) were among the numerous presenters. The forum was a tremendous success with the overwhelming majority of participants commenting very positively about the quality of presentations. Event sponsors included the BRBC, City of Calgary, University of Calgary and Alberta Water Research Institute.

Hard Working Legislation & Policy Committee

The BRBC Legislation and Policy Committee considers municipal, provincial and federal water legislation and policy and offers recommendations the BRBC Board to ensure legislation and policy in Alberta positively affects the Bow River Basin. It considers matters of legislation, policy, water management framework plans and policy referred by the Board, BRBC, Alberta Water Council and others.

It also provides comments and recommendations to the BRBC, Alberta Water Council and the province. In addition, the Committee considers the Alberta Water for Life Strategy and provides a process for consultation and review of proposed implementation of objectives and strategies.

Some 2007 highlights include:

February: the committee met with the Director of Alberta Environment to discuss improvements to the Water Act approval process. The committee suggested that ensuring the public has the opportunity to respond meaningfully to notices of approvals is a critical area to examine.

May: the committee reviewed the Riparian Land Conservation Management – Phase 1 Final Report by the Riparian Land Conservation and Management Project formed under Water for Life to address the need for protection of riparian lands in the Calgary area.

The committee also discussed the Land Use Template and Workplan for the BRBC Strategic Watershed Management Project

Committee

April: Discussed the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Watershed Management Project Committee, as well as issues relating to environmental reserve setbacks.

June: Met with the Director and members of the Environmental Appeal Board to talk about the ‘directly affected’ requirement for standing before the appeal body on water allocation decisions made by the Director.

Legislation and Policy Committee Chair, Judy Stewart represents the BRBC on a Land Use Framework Working Group.

In June, she made a submission to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development on its Land Use Framework, stressing the following seven points:

- Land use and watershed management planning need to be integrated
- Both quality and quantity issues must be considered regarding the impacts of land use on water
- Incorporate both surface water and groundwater considerations
- Future land use decisions will benefit from enhanced baseline knowledge of provincial groundwater and surface water
- The guiding principles and the workbook can leave the impression that land use decisions may be made based on the belief that the land alone could support the use in question. Arguably, this type of thinking has led to a situation where a considerable portion of

the South Saskatchewan River Basin is closed to further surface allocations. The premise must take a paradigm shift.

- Comprehensive cumulative impact studies must be considered in land use management
- The definition and consideration of impacts on water should be a mandatory part of land use decision processes. With the presence of withdrawal licensing restrictions and/or water quality objectives, and any possibility that they won’t be met, the land use proposal must present an evaluation of all means possible to either prevent or minimize such impacts.

July: Discussed a resolution to the BRBC Board regarding the Alberta Water Council’s Riparian Land Conservation and Management Project. The committee recommended that the project become a working group because healthy riparian areas are an essential component of a fully functioning ecosystem

October: Reviewed the Riparian Land Conservation Management Phase 1 Final Report.

Began preparing the BRBC response to the Wetlands Conservation Workbook and discussed comments on the Land Use Framework Planning and Decision Making Final Report.

September: Discussed the Board response to the proposed provincial resolution concerning Riparian Land Management.

Glenmore Reservoir in winter. BRBC file photo





Financial Statements

THE BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

(Incorporated Under The Societies Act of Alberta)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2008

	Assets	
Current	2008	2007
Cash	\$ 297,679	\$ --
Investments	389,247	206,746
Accounts receivable	6,033	255,576
	<u>\$ 692,959</u>	<u>\$ 462,322</u>
	Liabilities and Net Assets	
	Liabilities	
Current	2008	2007
Bank overdraft	\$ --	\$ 9,145
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	40,818	1,545
Due to Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership	45,096	--
Directed donations	60,000	--
	145,914	10,690
	Net Assets	
General fund balance	547,045	451,632
	<u>\$ 692,959</u>	<u>\$ 462,322</u>

Statement of General Fund Operations

	Revenues	
	2008	2007
Province of Alberta Grant	\$ 465,000	\$ 250,000
Federal Government Grant	49,320	50,000
Municipal Grants	31,500	56,360
Corporate Donations	372,778	237,230
Individual Donations	4,620	14,660
Net Gala Contributions	--	47,900
In-kind Donations	14,080	14,080
Interest Income	16,277	8,568
	\$ 909,187	\$ 678,798
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	Expenditures	
	2008	2007
Audit Fee	\$ 2,055	\$ 1,845
Contract Services	189,238	78,056
Legal Fees	2,459	200
Meetings and seminars expense	17,971	18,700
Membership Fees	12	475
Office and administrative expenses	12,286	23,023
Office Rent	13,080	13,080
Project Expense	414,500	327,310
Staff Salaries	148,824	137,568
Travel and Accommodations expense	7,316	7,056
GST expense	6,033	5,576
	\$ 813,774	\$ 612,889
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Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	\$ 95,413	\$ 65,909

The BRBC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Supporters:

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Baseline Water Resource
 CH2M Hill
 EPCOR
 Glencoe Golf and Country Club
 Imbrium Systems
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 Tim Hamilton Gloria Wilkinson
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 Jennifer Langston

Regulatory/Administrative/First Nations

Alberta Environment
 Government of Canada (Rural Secretariat)
 Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery (SRD)

Licensees

Bow River Irrigation District
 Eastern Irrigation District

Non-Profit Members

Alberta Stewardship Network
 Alberta WaterSMART
 Bow Riverkeeper
 Cochrane Environmental Action Committee

Municipal Members

City of Airdrie
 City of Calgary
 MD of Rocky View
 Town of Crossfield
 Town of Okotoks

Non Members

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 Town of Sylvan Lake
 Linda Struins
 Suncor Energy Foundation
 Town of Bonnyville
 UBG
 UMA
 Unitarian Church
 Karina Verhoeven

Support for the Bow River Basin Council

Total monetary contributions rose to \$894,054.53 up from \$683,642.74 the previous year. Support from Alberta Environment increased to \$350,000.

The contributions were made in the following categories:

• Alberta Environment (Annual Grant)	\$350,000.00	
• Directed Donations	\$474,904.09	
• Annual Giving (Direct Mail)	\$ 34,258.00	Members \$553,068.09 (61.8%)
• ALIDP Sponsorships & Registrations	\$ 34,224.50	
• New Members	\$ 310.00	Non-members \$340,986.44 (38.2%)
• Publications	\$ 150.00	
• Miscellaneous	\$ 207.94	

Directed donations are contributions made to BRBC member organizations that do not have charitable status, from organizations requiring a tax receipt.

While there is no charge for membership, new members from time to time do make contributions to the BRBC, when they join. These contributions are recognized with an official tax receipt.

Volunteers Sustain BRBC

Message From Executive Director Mark Bennett

As Executive Director, it is my very pleasant responsibility to highlight achievements and offer well deserved thanks. Perhaps the greatest pleasure for me, working with the BRBC, is the opportunity to work with, and around, so many outstanding and dedicated members. Our success is built by their hard work, not mine.

Inevitably, because there is always so much taking place, I run the very serious and grievous risk of not acknowledging all who richly deserve it. For all who have contributed, in any way, please accept my thanks.

There is, however, a spectacular highlight and special people who are deserving of specific mention.

The singularly most significant accomplishment for the BRBC in the past year was the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan – Phase I Water Quality Objectives. Thanks are extended to Al Sosiak (Chair) and the members of his Technical Team for pulling together the scientific and technical foundation for the initial BBWMP

phase. Thanks are also extended to Gloria Wilkinson (Chair) and her Steering Committee, who spearheaded the entire process and very efficiently completed this first planning phase.

These two groups working in concert, comprised of over 30 members, represent 1000's of hours of truly dedicated service.

The level of their dedication is clearly apparent in the final product.

What is most exciting is that it is evident that the coming years will provide us with bountiful opportunities to build upon the rich legacy left by our initial planning group.

Mark Bennett visits with Strathmore/Brooks MLA Arno Doerksen (left) at the Rockyford Urban Xeriscape 5th anniversary celebration. Photo: K. Kettenbach



Education & Awareness Key Function of Committee

The Education and Communication Committee (E&C) is the longest Standing Committee of the BRBC Board. Its mandate is “To develop and implement communication and education strategies for the Bow River Basin Council.”

The E&C takes its role as the voice of the Council and Basin to heart in all its activities; which was demonstrated throughout 2007

These include:

- Revisiting and revitalizing the committee's Terms of Reference to ensure the direction is in step with the changing nature of the organization. These revised Terms were ready to present the Board for approval by the end of 2007.
- Working with the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP) Project Manager to lend support and expertise to complete the communications requirements of the develop-

ment phase of the BBWMP.

- Electing a Co-chair to assist in managerial tasks of the committee.
- Exploring public outreach ideas to reach all basin public including pursuits to reach the broader community; which we hope will bear fruit in 2008.
- Investigating partnership opportunities for public education within the basin.
- On-going production of the highly successful Preserving Our Lifeline newsletter that showcases water management initiatives in the Bow basin and other Alberta WPACs and is delivered to both internal and external audiences.
- Continuing the weekly e-mail updates that include news and events relevant to our membership for continuous learning and information exchange.
- Assisting in the planning of the four

Forums that take place each year. The Forums bring members and the public together for watershed management learning in a day-long conference atmosphere tied to a timely theme. The themes in 2007 were: March - Watershed Management Tools; June - Annual General Meeting and Groundwater; September - Watershed Management Planning and December - Water Stewardship Groups.

The E & C holds six or more meetings per year from noon to 2 pm usually at the Calgary Regional Health building downtown.

Anyone wishing to join or suggest a project for the committee can contact one of the Co-chairs:

Norm Carlson,
Norm.Carlson@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca
or
Claudette Lacombe,
umbel@myipplus.net.

New Digs for BRBC

Bow River Basin Council office began a move to the City of Calgary Water Centre in late 2007. The staff physically moved by Jan. 2008.

"I'm looking forward to the new space and neighbors" explained Mike Murray Administrator for the Council. This move puts BRBC staff in the centre of many water management professionals in many fields. The job of moving office materials and the setup of the new office space was a big task. There was over a decade of 'belongings' to sort, pack and move. Murray expected some challenges in operating in a new environment in the short term but, believes the move will benefit the organization in many ways. The BRBC staff and Board want to thank EarthTech for its past support and generosity. Much of BRBC Council's work benefited from EarthTech assistance.

New BRBC Contact Information

Mailing address:

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Calgary AB T2P 2M5

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Fax: 403-268-6931

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Mark.Bennett@calgary.ca

Mike Murray
403-268-4597
Mike.Murray@calgary.ca

Did you know?

Studies show that we could reduce our household water use by 50 per cent without significantly changing our lifestyle
(Source: Alberta Water for Life)

Strategic Watershed Management Planning Committee (SWMPC)

The BRBC Board gave this committee the task of developing a long-term 'Road Map' of planning initiatives for the Bow River basin. During the latter half of 2007, the SWMPC agreed to the following definition of Integrated Watershed Management:

Integrated Watershed Management means understanding the systems in which each of the components in the watershed interact, the temporal and spatial scale through which they interact and creating management regimes that account for impacts and outcomes of the variables unique to each of the components and the systems in which they interact.

To facilitate the committee's work, they heard 11 presentations on related topics from Alberta Environment, University of

BC, Calgary Regional Health Authority, Worley Parsons, University of Calgary and specialized consultants.

The SWMPC found 18 potential planning aspects for the BRBC and made three recommendations to the Board regarding input from the BRBC membership, current information on the planning aspects and steps forward.

Danielle Droitsch and Heather Sinton acted as chairs of this committee with the following membership: Meghan Beveridge, Karen Natsukoshi, Rick Blackwood, Alan Pentney, Jerry Hall, Heinz Unger, Sheikh Ahmed, Catherine Shrier, Kylana Rogers-Hambling, Hugh Pepper, Rob Wolfe, Tracy Scott, Steve Meadows, Jon Fennell and Lisa Fox.

Waterfall at the top of Grotto Canyon. Photo: Mark Bennett

