



Preserving Our Lifeline

June 2007

To contact the Bow River Basin Council, call 403-254-3419
Visit: www.brbc.ab.ca

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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 2006- 2007

BRBC Members Paddle for TV

As part of the United Nations Decade For Action; Water For Life, Global TV teamed up with Canada's Chair of the UN initiative to make 10 public service announcements (PSA) that will encourage Canadians to care for our water resources.

The BRBC, Oldman Watershed Council (OWC) and Alberta Environment collaborated to make a one-minute PSA for the South Saskatchewan River Basin.

In this segment, a canoe of BRBC members paddle out of the mouth of the Bow River simultaneously with a canoe of OWC members appearing out of the mouth of the Oldman River. The two canoes then paddle side-by-side down the South Saskatchewan in the sunshine.

Susan Ryan, Norm Carlson, Rob Wolfe and Claudette Lacombe paddled the BRBC canoe during two days of filming on location. Day one filming took place on the Elbow River and day two took place at the confluence of the Bow and Oldman rivers.



From left: Rob Wolfe, Norm Carlson, Susan Ryan and Claudette Lacombe Photo: C. Ikeda

The BRBC and its members can take pride in the skill Susan demonstrated in piloting the canoe as per the director's (Craig Ikeda) instructions. "I must say that the four of us worked together like clockwork and I would enjoy doing a retake if luck would have it," said Norm Carlson.



Camp for day 2 of shoot at the confluence of the Bow and Oldman rivers. Photo: C. Lacombe

BRBC proudly works
with the Alberta Water Council

Gala Shares Support

The 2006 BRBC Ice Breaker Gala raised over \$30,000 to contribute to Council efforts toward sustaining the Bow River. Master of Ceremonies Bob Nicholson and keynote speaker Senator Tommy Banks contributed to a great evening.

At the Gala, BRBC recognized the Town of Okotoks and Earth Tech Canada with Leadership in Sustainability and Support in Sustainability awards. The Town of Okotoks received the Leadership in Sustainability award for making a commitment as a community to living within the capacity of its watershed along the Sheep River.

Earth Tech Canada received the Support in Sustainability award for providing BRBC with office space, IT and administrative support for over seven years.

The winners received blown glass Bull Trout crafted by Alberta artist Tyler Rock while over 200 supporters of watershed management in the Bow River Basin enjoyed BRBC's second Gala.

BRBC Executive Director Mark Bennett; Alderman Barry Erskine; Okotoks Councillor Laurie Hodson; Wendy Aupers Town of Okotoks; EarthTech Southern Alberta Director Dan Meidl; BRBC Chair Bill Berzins
Photo: Ewan Nicholson



Senator Tommy Banks
Photo: Ewan Nicholson



Gala Sponsors

Alberta Environment
Enbridge
City of Calgary Water Resources
EnCana
Komex
Terasen Utility Services
TransAlta
Eastern Irrigation District

BRBC Begins Expanding Its Collective Mind

During 2006, BRBC began to hold technical workshop/seminars to build capacity within the organization. Through building understanding of the science behind issues and solutions, more members will be able to tackle difficult issues.

“Our organization needs activity and informed opinion on multiple fronts. We have strong participation from policy makers, but we also need to make sure that we provide a forum for researchers to communicate on the issues that will face us in the future,” says BRBC Chair Bill Berzins.

He adds that the BRBC also needs to have an informed opinion when questioned by the public on various issues to strengthen its reputation as a leader in watershed management.

In June 2006, BRBC hosted the Invisible Resource workshop focused on groundwater with 150 people taking advantage of the information offered.

“I think it was one of the most powerful technical seminars we’ve ever hosted. We had a team of volunteers put together the technical program and I wish I could have video taped the presentations to take on the road,” Berzins says.

“We had people come up to us after the seminar and say, ‘these are the messages we need to get out to others in the basin.’” We discussed climate change in the short, medium and long term. We discussed ground water and the impact of development and exportation of ground water.”

“It was our first deeply scientific workshop. We will follow along from the work

that the Invisible Resource workshop initiated and ground water will be our main area of focus for 2007.”

Jay White slides into Standard to present the State of the Bow Basin report to Standard & Hussar high school students. (see story pg 7)
Photo: Gary Kindrat



Report From the Chair

David Thomas once said that, “unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls.” While much has been said in past annual reports about the accomplishments of the BRBC as a whole, it is clear that that the past year has seen the emergence of the Council’s volunteers as some of the brightest lights in watershed management in Alberta.

Our Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee and our Technical Committee helped show the way. Soon, these teams will introduce Water Quality Objectives (WQO’s) for each reach of the Bow River. Team members dedicated countless hours to the engagement of stakeholders throughout the Basin and the development of a world-class guidance document. These committees helped strike a remarkable balance between political reality, ecological integrity and scientific rigor. The Technical Committee also supported the Elbow River Watershed Partnership in the development of WQO’s - proving that our ability to align with the efforts of others is one of our greatest strengths.

Our Legislation and Policy Committee tackled tough topics including water license allocations, regulatory/policy gaps and notification procedures for affected parties about water-related projects. The Committee provides strategic counsel to the Board of Directors by relying on its members’ experience and understanding of the regulatory framework and policy implementation. Good policy requires balanced opinions across the full spectrum of interests. Our L&P team ensures that the interests of ecology and sustainability are well represented as we evaluate policy and direction.

Our Education and Communications Committee represents our quiet workhorse. As our oldest standing committee, it consistently delivers key products and messages that enhance the image and profile of the Council. In the year ahead, the Committee will be refreshing our content and image as our profile in the community grows.

Finally, our members have become even more active in leadership activities with

the Alberta Water Council (AWC). We have volunteers tackling key assignments in AWC project teams for Wetlands Policy, Water Conservation Planning, Intra-Basin Transfers, Water For Life Renewal, Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Frameworks. Our volunteers have long understood that our responsibility extends well beyond the boundaries of our watershed. I find it exciting to see our members carry forward common messages of determination and responsibility to other water and land managers across Alberta.

Watershed stewardship is not about remarkable breakthroughs or celebrations of quick success. It is about a community working together unselfishly towards a better future. As you read the pages of our 2006 Annual Report, I’m sure you too will see evidence of how our volunteers have become the radiant soul of our Council.

Sincerely,
Bill Berzins
Chairman BRBC

Support for the Bow River Basin Council

Total monitory contributions rose to \$683,642.74 from \$623,039.35, in the last fiscal year. That represents a growth rate of 10%. Support from Alberta Environment remained constant at \$250,000.

The contributions came from a variety of sources, including:

• Alberta Environment (Annual Grant)	\$ 250,000			
• Annual Giving (Direct Mail)	\$ 22,105	Members	\$401,339.74	58.71%
• Directed Donations	\$ 313,049.74			
• Ice Breaker Gala (2006)	\$ 64,294.25	Non-Members	\$282,303	41.29%
• Ground Water Workshop	\$ 5,773.75			
• Information Portal	\$ 20,000			
• Miscellaneous	\$ 1,810	Total	\$683,642.74	
• New Members	\$ 360			
• Publications	\$ 250			
• State of the Basin Report	\$ 6,000			

Directed donations are contributions made to BRBC member organizations that do not have a registered charity designation, 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.

Editors: Claudette Lacombe, umbel@myipplus.net, and Maureen Lynch, maureen_lynch@hotmail.com, accept, edit and compile content.
The Education and Communication Committee provide final approval of all content based on the Editorial Guidelines available through www.brbc.ab.ca



Financial Statements

THE BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

(Incorporated Under The Societies Act of Alberta)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2007

	Assets	
Current	2007	2006
Cash	\$ --	\$ 56,082
Investments	206,746	255,587
Accounts receivable	255,576	15,217
	<u>\$ 462,322</u>	<u>\$ 426,886</u>

	Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current	Liabilities	
	2007	2006
Bank overdraft	\$ 9,145	\$ --
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,545	11,639
Deferred revenue	--	29,524
	10,690	41,163
	<u>Net Assets</u>	
General fund balance	451,632	385,723
	<u>\$ 462,322</u>	<u>\$ 426,886</u>

Statement of General Fund Operations

	Revenues	
	2007	2006
Province of Alberta Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Federal Government Grant	50,000	500
Other Alberta Grant	--	8,650
Municipal Grants	56,360	65,050
Corporate Donations	237,230	162,960
Individual Donations	14,660	6,295
Net Gala Contributions	47,900	62,371
In-kind Donations	14,080	14,080
Interest Income	8,568	4,028
	<u>\$ 678,798</u>	<u>\$ 573,934</u>
	Expenditures	
	2007	2006
Audit Fee	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,500
Contract Services	78,056	66,986
Meetings and seminars expense	18,700	18,650
Membership Fees	475	188
Office and administrative expenses	23,023	27,146
Office Rent	13,080	13,080
Project Expense	327,310	235,847
Staff Salaries	137,568	137,495
Travel and Accomodations expense	7,056	4,718
GST expense	5,576	6,568
	<u>\$ 612,889</u>	<u>\$ 512,319</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	<u>\$ 65,909</u>	<u>\$ 61,615</u>

The BRBC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Supporters:

Commercial /Industrial Members

Alberta Chamber of Resources (Ken Campbell)
AMEC (Nancy Grainger)
Aquality Environmental Consultants (Gary Kindrat)
Associated Engineering (Alan Pentney)
Earth Tech
EPCOR
Fossil Water (Bill Berzins)
Glencoe Golf & Country Club
Huntington Hills Mobile Health Unit (Stella Riesen)
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Tesera (Bruce MacArthur)
Umbel Communications (C. Lacombe)
Urban Systems
Westhoff Engineering
WorleyParsons Komex (Jon Fennell)

Individual Public Members

Wendy Aupers	Steve Meadows
Richard Barss	Bob Nicholson
Carolyn Campbell	Susan Ryan
Patsy Cross	Sandra Stead
Erin Dodd	Judy Stewart
Dr. Dianne Draper	Toivo Taal
Laurie Hamilton	A Warren Wilson
Lydia Hill	Gloria Wilkinson
Norm Kent	Dr. A Warren Wilson

Non-Profit Members

Alberta WaterSMART (Kim Sturgess)
Alberta Wilderness Association (Heinz Unger)
Bow Riverkeeper (Danielle Droitsch)
Cows and Fish (Amanda Bogen)
Elbow River Watershed Partnership (Monique Dietrich)
Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (Marina Krainer)
Highwood Management Plan Public Advisory Group (Shirley Pickering)
Nose Creek Watershed Partnership
River Valleys Committee (Mac Hickley)
RiverWatch
Trees Alive (Gord McMahon)

Regulatory/Administrative/First Nations

Alberta Agriculture and Food (Wally Chinn)
Alberta Environment
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Environment Canada (Eco Action)
Siksika Nation Land Management
Stony Nation

Licensees

Bow River Irrigation District
Eastern Irrigations District (Gala Sponsor)
TransAlta Utilities (Gala Sponsor)



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Municipal Members

City of Calgary
County of Newell
MD of Big Horn (Hugh Pepper)
MD of Rocky View
Town of Banff (Bob Haney)
Town of Canmore
Town of Cochrane
Town of Okotoks
Wheatland County

BRBC Steps Up to the Challenge

In 2006, the BRBC undertook a very special, strategic planning project involving the Challenge Dialogue System (CDS) for the purposes of developing a Strategic Action Plan. The CD invited participants to engage in a discussion aimed at informing the development of a strategy and future options for the BRBC. The process involved both written responses and participation in a one-day workshop. The CDS process was undertaken in lieu of conducting a formal membership survey. This process provided so much more. Project deliverables included a 100 page BRBC Challenge Dialogue: Feedback Synthesis Report (what our members told us); a 37 page report on the accumulated workshop output (BRBC Challenge Dialogue: Workshop Notes); and most importantly, the BRBC Challenge Dialogue: Strategy and Action Plan Report (26 pages).

Not surprisingly, participants expressed a wide range of perspectives on the BRBC; reinforcing our commonly held belief that this diversity represents one of the organizations greatest strengths. Members want to both contribute to the BRBC's success and also hold the organization accountable for their investments of time and money. If you would like more information about the CDS process, or to receive a copy of referenced reports, please contact the BRBC office.

Education and Awareness Key Function of Committee

The Education & Communication (E&C) committee started 2006 with a series of public information meetings about the State of the Bow Basin Report. The meetings took place in five basin communities: Canmore, Cochrane, Brooks, Strathmore and Okotoks. BRBC members Gary Kindrat and Jay White traveled the route presenting to schools in the afternoon and public meetings in the evening. This initiative garnered cooperation from many members in the communities involved. The local coordinators were: Laura Marshall, Canmore; Tim Giese & Lisa Fox, Cochrane; Earl Wilson, Brooks; Claudette Lacombe, Strathmore and Maureen Lynch & Wendy Aupers, Okotoks.

What did our Members tell us?

1. That the BRBC review its organizational roles and responsibilities including governance structure, reporting authority and decision-making.
2. That the BRBC clarify its new roles and responsibilities as a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council and assess how the Water For Life strategy may influence BRBC plans and actions.
3. That some issues or concerns identified by BRBC members have been ignored in the decision-making process. Suggestion that the BRBC Board of Directors review how member issues are documented and how those issues are addressed in the decision-making process – so that some members do not feel marginalized.
4. Further, that the BRBC develop a process to identify clearly defined issues and program goals on which planning teams can focus their efforts. The BRBC must develop a long-term framework and action plan that is supported by all interested members.
5. That the BRBC work to identify the specific types, and relevance (significance) of data, information, and knowledge “gaps” in the Bow basin.

6. BRBC continue to actively engaging the public, all levels of government and political leadership on the key issues facing the current and future management of the watershed.
7. Concern was expressed that volunteer fatigue may compromise the effectiveness of the BRBC by impacting continuity of operations.

What has this led to?

1. Caused the Board of Directors to thoroughly review the issue of BRBC Governance and to develop a Policy and Procedures Manual.
2. Prompted the BRBC (through the Legislation and Policy Committee) to closely track and participate in the Alberta Water Council's project on Shared Governance and the development of a Framework for Watershed Management.
3. Led to the creation of the Strategic Watershed Management Planning Team
4. The creation and population of the Knowledge, Data and Research Standing Committee and the convening of the BRBC's first Science Forum (at the University of Calgary).

*Gary Kindrat flies into Okotoks
Photo: Jay White*



Also integral to the success of this initiative were Alberta Ecotrust, Eastern Irrigation District, Western Irrigation District, Towns of Canmore & Banff, M.D. of Big Horn and Cochrane Environmental Action Committee.

The E&C committee also continued its very successful Preserving Our Lifeline newsletter and educational forums during 2006. These initiatives synchronize so that the newsletter appears in members' Inboxes approximately two weeks prior to a forum. This helps BRBC remind members of the up coming forums.

In 2006, the E&C assisted BRBC in technical workshop presentations to begin a more indepth education

about specific issues of interest to the membership. The committee also took several opportunities to send the BRBC display to events in the basin along with BRBC representatives to present or take part in activities.

Along with this work, the committee also worked on a renewal/redesign of the BRBC web site that will launch in 2007.

Message from the Executive Director

Volunteers Sustain BRBC

This past year saw the BRBC with much greater involvement in the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP). The BBWMP is destined to become the biggest and most important project the BRBC has undertaken to date. The plan (Phase I now under development) is a natural successor to the 2005 State of the Basin Report and sets in motion the potential for a repeating report sequence with "State of" reports followed by specific planning initiatives that will address the issues that are delineated in those "State of" reports.

The Council continues to enjoy tremendous in-kind (volunteer) support from its members. This provides a poignant endorsement of the work that we do. The Water for Life Strategy envisions WPAC's as important partners helping to address the significant challenges facing water managers in Alberta. Preliminary estimates suggest that the cumulative efforts of BRBC members represent in excess of 10 staff Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) dedicated to this purpose. Imagine this



BRBC Executive Director Mark Bennett shares his knowledge of what's in our water with students of Rockyford School at the 6th annual Rockyford School Watershed Awareness Day in June 2007. Photo: C. Lacombe

spread across 10 or 12 WPAC's throughout the Province. Now add in the extremely important, but unrecorded, work of all the Watershed Stewardship Groups.

Sometimes we have a tendency to focus on the work that isn't getting done. Often this represents a daunting challenge. However,

I invite you to contemplate what is getting done. This Annual Report provides an appropriate opportunity to remember the 1000's of hours dedicated by Albertan's to preserving what we have; working hard to keep this as the greatest place to live, work and play.

First Nation Water Stewards Join December Forum

December 2006 marked a milestone for regional cooperation at the BRBC Forum Communities as Water Stewards II: Planning for Action event at the Cochrane Rancho House. It was the first forum that BRBC had presentations and discussions lead by First Nations participants.

Through the efforts of BRBC, Alberta Stewardship Network, Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, and representatives from Alberta Environment, Cows & Fish, First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group, Rural Team Alberta, and Rural Secretariat, Communities as Water Stewards II com-

combined the regularly scheduled December BRBC Quarterly Educational Forum with an evening event for watershed steward-

ship groups. The event design promotes information sharing and stakeholders engagement on issues related to water on a local and provincial scale.

Communities as Water Stewards II aimed to help 135 community water stewards explore different ways to manage their water



resources, by bringing together community watershed planning and protection groups. The event was a unique oppor-

tunity for BRBC to expand its regular forum activities to include volunteer watershed stewards and stakeholders in the Bow River Basin, across Alberta and from other provinces, in an exchange of energy, ideas and challenges.

Recognizing the critical role watershed stewardship groups play in Alberta's Water For Life Strategy -- as stewards working together with on-the-ground actions to make a difference in water quality and quantity throughout the province -- the BRBC December Forum is always dedicated to watershed stewardship. Bursaries for travel and accommodation were available to members of watershed stewardship groups.

In March 2003, the first Communities as Water Stewards coincided with the international water conference Mountains as Water Towers hosted by the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta.