



Preserving Our Lifeline

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

Bow River Basin Council Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Award Winning Year for BRBC

Years of teamwork by many people and solid steps toward sustainable water management earned the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) two provincial awards in 2010.

The Emerald Foundation chose the BRBC to receive the Community Group Emerald Award for its progress on implementation of the BRBC Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP).

The Alberta Stewardship Network Grassroots Environmental Stewardship Award chose the BRBC in the Supporting Agency category for its strong support of the stewardship community in the Bow River basin. BRBC Chair Mike Kelly and BBWMP committee chair Gloria Wilkinson accepted the Emerald Award on behalf of the BRBC at the awards ceremony on June 2010.

"It's a very humbling experience actually because, as a volunteer, you just do what you do. Then, suddenly somebody says,

'well that's worthwhile,'" Gloria said.

The BBWMP grew out of a process that involved a technical committee to explore scientific foundations for water quality objectives (WQOs) and a steering committee to bring together key stakeholders.

The BBWMP recommends site-specific WQOs for the Bow River mainstem, Nose Creek and West Nose Creek mainstem and the Elbow River upstream of Glenmore Reservoir. It also contains recommended actions for implementation by identified decision-makers and key stakeholders.

As a current board member, Monique Dietrich accepted the ASN Supporting Agency Award on behalf of the BRBC. The BRBC established a Watershed Stewardship Coordinating Committee (WSCC) in 2009 that is a working committee to assemble an online resource guide for stewards and host an annual education and networking forum where stewards can connect with, learn from and collaborate with other stewards and resource people in the Bow Basin. The WSCC became a standing committee of the Board in 2010.

Dietrich commented, "Congratulations to everyone who



contributes to the ongoing support to stewards and especially to the tireless, passionate stewards out there. Thank you to the nomination team and to the Alberta Stewardship Network for recognizing this work of the BRBC."

ASN also recognized the BRBC for seeking continuous local watershed knowledge for the web-based state of the watershed report. Stewards in the Bow River basin work together to implement common goals using guidance from the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan.

Photos: Monique Dietrich and Mike Kelly with ASN Award and Gloria Wilkinson with Emerald Award.



It's All About Teamwork

Legislation and Policy Committee

The L & P Committee agrees on a work plan each year that identifies key areas of interest from its members, the BRBC Board and Standing Committees. The work plan aims to clarify understanding or host dialogues on specific policy initiatives relevant to the BRBC in its Watershed Planning and Advisory role.

Over the past year, the L & P Committee hosted guests from across the province in industry, academia, and government to enhance its understanding of land use planning and watershed resources.

L & P also increased efforts to build the understanding of its membership regarding the role of the BRBC in the policy and legislative environment of Alberta's land and watershed management.

The L & P Committee hosted two workshops in 2010/2011 for member input into the Phase II Watershed Management Plan on headwaters, land use, riparian areas



Back left: Mark Bennett, Rob Wolfe, Vivienne Beisel, Gary Wagner, Lisa Fox, Mike Kelly & Mac Hickley. Front left: Richard Barss, Tracy Evans, Mike Murray & Timothy Haufe. Photo: M. Murray

and wetlands.

In the coming year, the L & P Committee is committed to working with basin stakeholders to host a series of Conservation Tools workshops to explore the application of conservation tools to watershed and agricultural land conservation.

The L & P Committee meets approximately nine times per year on the fourth Fri-

day of every month (except July, August & December) at Cochrane RancheHouse from 9 am – noon. We also host two workshops per year - November and March.

The L&P Committee is open to all members of the Bow River Basin Council interested in land and watershed management and associated legislative and policy. Lisa Maria Fox is Chair of the committee.

E & C Keeping Everyone in the Loop

The Education & Communication Committee (E&C) was instrumental in BRBC winning both an Alberta Emerald Award and Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) Award in 2010. The E&C contributed to the nominations that won the ASN Supporting Agency Grassroots Environmental Stewardship Award and the Community Group Emerald Award.

During 2010, the E&C expanded its role to include fund raising coordination. This is a recognition of the symbiotic relationship between fund raising and communication. The committee is in the process of absorbing exactly how to manage the work of these two areas effectively.

A few new faces joined the committee in 2010. Nuno Fragoso, Mac Hickley, Susan Pendray and Michelle Mueller added their voices to the decisions around the table.

The BRBC also took part in a few public events with staff setting up an information display at the EnCana Charity Fair, Calgary Mayor's Expo and the City of Calgary's Utilities & Environmental Protection Employee Development Day.

The committee also produced a report about the implementation activities in-line with Phase 1 of the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan undertaken by BRBC member communities.

The BRBC newsletter, weekly News & Events updates and quarterly Education Forums continue to be very popular and highly complemented E&C initiatives among the BRBC membership.



The members of the Education & Communication Committee at the May meeting. Back left: Nuno Fragoso, Mac Hickley, Susan Pendray, & Medini Prasai. Front left: Mike Murray, Michelle Mueller & Claudette Lacombe. Absent: Stella Riesen, Norm Carlson, Mark Bennett & Tim Giese. Photo: M. Murray



Chinese symbol for water

Watershed Stewardship Group Coordinating Committee

By Shirley Pickering (Chair)

Membership

The committee consists of 16 members representing:

- Six WSGs: Nose Creek Watershed Partnership, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Ghost Watershed Alliance Society, Friends of Fish Creek, Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership & Highwood Management Plan Core Group;
- Three government agencies: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Environment, & County of Wheatland;
- One ENGO: Alberta Stewardship Network;
- Three individual stewards;
- BRBC Program Coordinator

Two of the members also sit on other BRBC committees (BBWMP-Steering Committee and Education & Communications Committee). Shirley Pickering took over the Chair from Monique Dietrich who stepped down in August. Many thanks to Monique for her support and leadership in getting the committee set-up and operational. The new Chair also sits on the BRBC Board as an ASN representative and serves as a liaison between the committee and the Board.

This year's activities included nine meetings that continued the purpose of the committee to foster collaborative project development and information sharing with Bow Basin stewardship groups and to support Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) activities.

BRBC Priorities in Place to 2016

by Rob Wolfe

SWAT formed its project team in late 2007 to provide long-term planning direction and advice to the BRBC BOD.

SWAT used a multi-pronged approach including

- Bow River Basin Council's Decision Support Matrix and Risk Analysis
- Alberta Environment's Watershed Sensitivity Analysis

Activity highlights include:

- Developed WSG stakeholder slide presentation template to assist WSGs with engagement of municipalities. Presentation will be posted on the BRBC website.
- Organized BRBC December 2010 Stewardship Forum in Strathmore. This forum, held outside of Calgary, attracted a broader rural community audience. The WSCC and BRBC express appreciation to the WID for hosting this event.
- Provided input into the ASN WSG Needs Survey.
- Ensure continued sharing of information on the activities of: Watershed Stewardship Groups, Bow River Basin Council, Alberta Water Council and provincial government as related to Water for Life and Land Use Framework implementation.
- Supported initial development of the Bow River Basin Web-based State of Watershed reporting by updating sub-basin information which will be an ongoing process.
- Provided input into the development of the BRBC website, also an ongoing process.
- Participated in Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan - Phase 2 planning process by providing input on development of the TOR and Plan drafts.

SWAT identified the following planning priorities for the years 2010 – 2016.

- Web-based State of Watershed Project and Summary Booklet (May 2009 – August 2010)
- Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan: Phase Two: Land Use with the Entire Bow Basin, Headwaters, Wetlands and Riparian Areas (September 2010 to August 2012)

Watershed Stewardship Group Committee

Back Left: Gerry Guy, Monique Dietrich, Gary Wagner & Mike Murray

Front left: Shirley Pickering & Gloria Wilkinson

Absent: Erin McMahon, Heinz Unger, Sarah Hamza, Marina Krainer, Katie Pearson, Lori-Ann Ekland, Sarah Schumacker & Claudette Lacombe



The committee also provides awareness of opportunities for local stewardship groups to have a voice on regional and provincial scale watershed management/stewardship issues and actions that might affect the support of project work. The committee helps to create opportunity for closer alignment and shared work efforts between WSGs and between WSGs and the WPAC activities of the BRBC to improve watershed stewardship and management planning. Having other agencies on the committee provides opportunity for WSGs to access in-kind resources offered by these agencies and for the agencies to learn about stewardship service needs. Outreach activities to better engage municipalities and other stewardship groups working in the Bow Basin and to complete an online Stewardship Resource Guide are some key activities in the work plan for the upcoming year.

- Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan: Phase Three: Surface and Groundwater Quantity (September 2012 to August 2014 including implementation)
- Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan: Phase Four: Surface Water Quality Revisited and Groundwater Quality (September 2014 to August 2016)



Financial Statements

THE BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

(Incorporated Under The Societies Act of Alberta)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2009

Assets

Current	2011	2010
Cash	\$ 318,699	\$ 527,546
Investments	643,205	639,487
Accounts receivable	51,425	6,608
	\$ 1,013,329	\$ 1,173,641

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Current	2011	2010
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$ 20,797	\$ 39,001
Deferred provincial government grant	250,000	500,000
	\$ 270,797	\$ 503,900

Net Assets

General fund balance	667,532	669,741
	\$ 1,013,329	\$ 1,173,641

Statement of General Fund Operations

	Revenues	
	2011	2010
Province of Alberta Grant	\$ 340,432	\$ 250,000
Municipal Grants	50925	57,725
Directed Donations	200,000	212,000
Corporate Donations	102,627	17955
Individual Donations	4,070	2995
In-kind Donations	19,000	19,000
Calgary Foundation Income	369	251
Interest Income	3,720	2,236
	\$ 721,143	\$ 562,162
	Expenditures	
	2011	2010
Audit Fee	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
Contract Services	74914	93,725
Calgary Foundation Legacy Fund Contribution	800	1,010
Directed Donations Expense	200,000	212,000
Legal Fees	300	300
Meetings and seminars expense	18,656	18,137
Membership Fees	470	455
Office and administrative expenses	12,145	9,716
Office Rent	19,000	19,000
Project Expense	97993	24,091
Staff Salaries	209919	172,761
Travel and Accommodations expense	9,030	7923
GST expense	2925	6,608
	\$ 648,352	\$ 567,167
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	\$ 72,791	\$ (5,005)

The BRBC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Supporters:

Commercial Industrial

A Warren Wilson
 Agrium
 Bob McAlpine
 Brent Bowerman
 Brown & Associates
 EPCOR
 Glencoe Golf and Country Club
 Jon Fennel
 Joseph Buchner
 Penn West Energy
 Tera Environmental Consultants
 Urban Systems

Individual Public Members

Christine Caskey	Ricardo Moreno
David Murray	Sandra Stead
Frances Dover	Sheila Duchek
Gloria Wilkinson	Shirley Pickering
Mike Kelly	Steve Meadows
Nicholas Chapin	Suzanne Oel

Municipal

City of Calgary	Town of Okotoks
Glen Morine	Wheatland County
Town of Canmore	Zennon Zalusky

Licensee

Eastern Irrigation District
 Western Irrigation District

Non-Profit / Academia

Elzbieta Lipowska
 Rocky Mountain Dirt riders
 Sarah Hamza
 Western Sky Land Trust

Double Your Money - Almost

Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program donated \$0.90 to the BRBC for every dollar donated by individual contributors in 2010. Send BRBC \$20 and Alberta Culture and Community Spirit makes it \$38! Do it now!

Non Members

Harmony Developments	Sharon McDonald
IHS Energy	Shell Environmental Fund
Imperial Oil	Simone Murray
Kieran Murray	Suncor Energy Foundation
Marianne Murray	The Calgary Foundation
Mark Bennett	Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Medini Prasai	
Mike Murray	
RBC Foundation	

Monetary Support

AENV annual grant	\$ 250,000
Annual Giving	\$ 55,945
Directed Donations	\$ 19,100
Miscellaneous	\$ 8,770
Project grants	\$ 69,092
Total	\$ 502,907
Members	83%
Non-members	17%

Regulatory, Administrative & First Nations

Rob Wolfe
 Alberta Culture And Community Spirit
 Alberta Environment
 Sustainable Resource Development

2010 BRBC Board



From left - Back: Mark Bennett & Norm Carlson
 Sarah Fulton, Rob Wolfe,
 Dennis Westhoff, Lisa Fox, Mike Kelly, Jon Fennel, Steve Meadows & Shirley Pickering
 Front: Jim Webber, Zennon Zalusky & Harvey Buckley Photo: M. Murray

A Forever Way to Support the BRBC

In late 2008, an individual supporter started the Glacier Legacy Fund through the Calgary Foundation. It is one of 900 funds under the management of the Calgary Foundation and managed by "highly esteemed investment managers," according to Mark Bennett, Executive Director BRBC. The Glacier Legacy Fund will provide BRBC with an annual return based on the principle invested in the fund. You can make a donation on-line <http://www.thecalgaryfoundation.org/>, by phoning 403.802.7700 or by mailing a check to 700-999 8 Street SW Calgary AB T2R 1J5. Make checks payable to The Calgary Foundation, but specify the Glacier Legacy Fund as the destination fund.

Modelling Project Shows Benefit of System Wide Management

If the people who rely on the Bow River and its tributaries for water want to ensure everyone has enough water well into the future, the river system needs a completely different and cooperative management regime.

This is the major finding of The Bow River Project initiated by the Alberta Water Research Institute in May 2010 and involving almost all the major water users of the system.

Mike Kelly, Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) Chair, took part in the project and explains that each major river water user manages its use of the river by focusing on its needs, responsibilities and applicable regulations.

The Bow River Project shows that if the various water users cooperate to manage the river system, there could be improvements in water availability, recreational opportunities and environmental health.

A large part of any new management system requires asking TransAlta to change when it releases water from its mountain reservoirs.

“There’s going to be a certain cost to TransAlta. It’s not insignificant to the company, but quite small in comparison to many of the public and private benefits that could be created. For example, it was certainly the view of the people in the room that the alternative cost of having TransAlta manage the reservoirs differently is less costly than trying to build new reservoirs,” Kelly says. The ‘people in the room’ Kelly refers to include representatives from the Alberta Water Research Institute, Alberta WaterSmart, BRBC, the City of Calgary, the Calgary Regional Partnership, County of Newell, Rocky View County, the three big Bow River irrigation districts, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Agriculture & Rural Development, Tourism and Parks, Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Environment.



Lake Minniewanka TransAlta reservoir high in Banff National Park. Photo: C. Lacombe

The modelling program they used is a proven hydrological management model developed by Hydrologics from Baltimore, Maryland. The model allows for the inclusion of economic and environmental values or issues. With the cooperation of many organizations and government departments, the Bow River Project loaded up 67 consecutive years of southern Alberta data.

“What you can do is sit around a table with a group of very knowledgeable Bow Basin water managers and say what if we did X or what if we did Y. The model will show you the results on all of the rest of the system. We really wanted this interactive model to determine how we can manage the river differently and what the consequences would be of doing so. Because like all systems, when you push on one area of the Bow River system something else will pop up in another area,” says Kelly. “One of our goals was to reduce or eliminate unintended consequences.” He adds that, “we need to look at this more but it certainly looks like this could be a much less expensive option in terms of providing water for the basin’s projected population growth, recreational use and water demand.”

To learn more about the Bow River and BRBC, visit www.brbc.ab.ca.

Executive Director Message

As always, BRBC volunteers from Board, committees and special projects make this organization the provincial leader that it is and I, for one, am eternally grateful for all your hard work.

The Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) appreciates the countless hours Monique Dietrich dedicated to directing the Web-based State of the Watershed (WSOW) reporting tool project. This tool will grow and develop through the coming years.

Also, Steve Meadows, Gloria Wilkinson and Rob Wolfe carried forward the work on the Bow Basin Water Management Plan Phase II (BBWMP2). Many people offered expertise and evaluation of the BBWMP2 that assisted the core committee in its work.

Our BRBC Chair jumped in with both feet on the Bow River Project led by Alberta WaterSmart. Bow River stakeholders came together and, using a modelling program, looked a ways of managing the resource as a system from headwaters to confluence and showed some promising benefits for the river.

Board member Harvey Buckley participated in another promising project this past year that moved Natural Capital Valuation forward.

Volunteers Cathy Ryan, Nicole Rowney and Wendell Koning worked hard on a proposal to the Canadian Water Network. Although it may take another try or two, this proposal will bring even more interesting work to our organization in the coming years.

Finally, some valuable partners found benefit in working with the BRBC this year. Agrium’s Caring For Our Watersheds program fits very well with BRBC goals and we enjoy our interaction. Also, the BRBC congratulates Agrium on a 2011 Emerald Award for this program.

Also EnCana took an interest in the WSOW project and continues to see value in our work.



Mark Bennett

Message from the Chair

The Bow River Basin Council, through the innovative activities of its membership, continues to show leadership in the conservation and preservation of this magnificent watershed. BRBC volunteers worked long and hard as always and moved our organization further toward its goal of being one of the best managed watersheds in the world.

Our redesigned website launch in conjunction with the on-line State of the Watershed report really opens up a ton of information for basin residents. It's a one-stop site for just about anything you want to know about the Bow River. Our many volunteers who put so much effort into making this an informative and long term platform for public information can be proud of that achievement.

The BRBC also took the next step in Watershed Management Planning with Phase 2 well under way and expected to wrap up by the end of 2011. Its focus on riparian,



wetlands, headwaters and land use will go a long way to support informed decision making to further

protect the ecosystems in our watershed. Working with many of our BRBC members and other stakeholders, we took part in a trailblazing simulation modelling exercise for the entire Bow River System. The results, using 67 years of daily flow, show that altering a small percentage of the annual storage and flow rates can substantially improve environmental conditions in several reaches, and can provide adequate water supply for municipal purposes as forecast for the next 50 years. Additional refinements, stress tests, and

more specific analyses will be undertaken in 2011 on climate change scenarios and other supply/demand projections. The project shows bright promise for the future of the river if all water users work together in the basin.

Our committees continue to inform and collaborate in ways that ensure the whole membership benefits from our work. I think the outstanding quality of presentations at the quarterly forums attests to the strides being made in the basin and in Alberta through our work.

The many Watershed Stewardship Groups and other "hands on" organizations throughout our watershed continue to inspire us all by their commitment and real world achievements.

I encourage everyone to get involved, take responsibility for your own actions, and join us in assuring that the Bow Watershed remains one of the greatest places on earth to live and grow.

BRBC Fund raising Facts

For those of you who are voracious news hounds, you may recall national attention paid to charities and some associated fund raising costs. In many respects the coverage, while timely, wasn't very complimentary. In "worst" case scenarios it was cited that some agencies were paying upwards of \$0.90 to raise a dollar. Without question it can, and usually does, cost money to raise money. The BRBC can understand how contributors to some organizations may be dismayed to learn that as little as 10% of their contribution goes to actually supporting the work that they want to support.

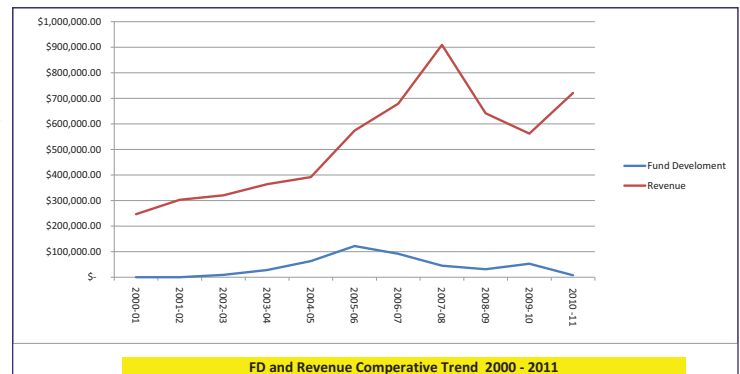
So what may you ask, does any of this have to do with the BRBC? Well in an effort of full disclosure, we want to tell you about the BRBC and our fund raising efforts. In particular we want to tell you what we spend to raise money. The BRBC does spend money to raise money.

Our fund development costs fall into four areas; they are, i) Contract Services (Fund Development Consultant and /or Assistant), ii) Expenses (general), iii) Credit Card charges and, iv) Event costs (e.g.

Gala). Many of you know Susan Pendray, our Fund Development Consultant and Mentor. Susan is a Certified Fund Raising Executive and a member of the Association of Fund raising Professionals.

As such she conscientiously adheres to an industry Code of Ethics and supports the Donor Bill of Rights. For a number of years Susan has provided the BRBC with both solid professional advice and hands-on effort in our fund raising efforts. Susan is compensated at industry rates based on the level of service provided. She is not paid any commissions or bonuses. Susan has consistently proven her worth to the BRBC and we are glad to have her. Susan is also a financial contributor to the BRBC.

In the past 11 years the BRBC spent \$450,000 on fund raising. This represents 7.9% of our total revenues over the same period. Fiscal 2005-2006 was our highest single year expenditure (\$122,112) on



Fund Development activities. This was also the year of our first Gala. The BRBC revenue in that year was 47% higher than the previous year, but the Fund Development costs (including Gala expenditures) represented 21% of our total revenue.

Fund Development is and shall remain a fundamental element of our Core activities. It will continue to cost us money to make money, which is the very nature of charitable organizations. However, we want to assure you that we will continue to make every reasonable effort to control costs and maximize benefits.

For those of you who have provided financial support; a sincere thank you. If you have not, perhaps you will give us gracious consideration in the future.