

Elbow Partnership News

Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Newsletter
Issue No.24

www.erwp.org
July/August 2005

From the ERWP Board

The Coordinating Committee

The Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) held its first Annual General Meeting as a registered society on June 16th, 2005. New by-laws were adopted that better reflect our operations as a stewardship group and the Board of Directors (known as the Coordinating Committee) was refurbished based on representation from the membership. The first meeting of the newly elected Board will be late August. Monique Dietrich continues to work on a half time basis as ERWP Watershed Coordinator.

The membership categories and representatives on the ERWP Coordinating Committee are:

Community Groups & Associations (Full)

- Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition – Eric Lloyd
- Springbank Community Planning Association - Gloria Wilkinson

Industry & Academia (1 seat vacant)

- Glencoe Golf and Country Club – Mitch Jacques

Government (1 seat vacant)

- The City of Calgary Waterworks – John Jagorinec
- Alberta Environment – not confirmed

First Nations (Full)

- Tsuu T'ina – Lee Crowchild

Agriculture/Equine Business/Aquaculture (1 seat vacant)

Individuals (Full)

- Maureen Bell

Honourary Member

- Bow River Basin Council – Mark Bennett

Water Management Plan

Terms of Reference Preliminary Discussion

June 24, 2005

The preliminary discussion for Water Management Planning for the Elbow River was held on June 24th. Recent flooding events provided an interesting backdrop for discussion, although some stakeholders were not able to attend because of flooding related issues. The session was recorded on flip charts and will

become the starting point for developing a Terms of Reference.

Doug Balsden a facilitator with Alberta Community Development, led the 16 attendees through the nine points provided in the Alberta *Framework for Water Management Planning* which are the minimum to be included in a Terms of Reference. The points that must be included are:

- an overview of current conditions and an initial description of the issues;
- a geographic description of the planning area;
- the intended objectives of the planning process;
- the roles, responsibilities and accountability of those who will be involved;
- the potential linkages with Regional Strategies;
- the proposed public consultation process;
- a work plan;
- information requirements; and
- a proposed schedule for the planning process.

The Steering Committee will meet during the summer to prepare a draft Terms of Reference for review by all Stakeholders.

The 2005 Report on the State of the Bow River Basin

Report released April 29, 2005

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Excerpt from the Executive Summary
www.brbc.ab.ca

The Bow River Basin is home to more than one million Albertans and welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Valued for its beauty, and as a home for diverse fish, wildlife and plant communities, it is under immense pressure from a growing urban community and various land use impacts. This report, written for the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) and its stakeholders, addresses the challenges faced by those whose task it is to ensure the responsible use and conservation of water resources in the basin. It updates and expands on the 1994 BRBC State of the River report.

Most of the Bow River Basin is highly altered from its natural state. Hydroelectric generation, effluent dilution, and water allocation for irrigation, municipal, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses impact the natural flows of the river. By the time the river reaches its confluence with the Oldman River, 68% of its average annual flow has been allocated, although actual consumption is currently lower. Of the allocated water, 76% is licensed for irrigation.

There are many positive activities ongoing within the basin. The BRBC and other organizations, government agencies and individual citizens have been addressing these issues for the past 13 years with a fair degree of success. Recent actions have led to great improvements in wastewater treatment by the City of Calgary and several smaller communities, the restoration of wetlands by organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and the Eastern Irrigation District, and water conservation programs by many municipalities and the Irrigation Districts. Many new stewardship groups and initiatives have been formed as a result of greater awareness of the issues, including Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability. Volunteer groups and individuals have initiated assessment, renewal and protection programs.

To see the report online go to the Bow River Basin Council website www.brbc.ab.ca or contact Mike Murray at 254-3419.

Flood Stories: We want to hear from you!

**Elbow River Flood Meeting
Wednesday July 27th, 2005**

7 p.m.

**Glencoe Club Ballroom,
636 – 29th Avenue SW, Calgary**

Come to share and listen about the flooding of the Elbow River in Calgary (ERIC)*. Those who were impacted by the flood are invited to share their stories. We encourage and support the sharing of photos, stories and observations in hopes that our collective knowledge can help prepare us for similar events in future.

*ERIC is affiliated with the Bow River Basin Council and the Elbow River Watershed Partnership – part of the Water Management Strategy in Alberta. ERIC also works closely with the River Valleys Committee.

Summer Day Camp in Bragg Creek

August 8th - 12th

At the **Junior Naturalists Summer Day Camp** children between the ages of 9 – 12 years spend the days exploring the Elbow River upstream of Bragg Creek. Gently sloshing in the wetlands in search for the biggest bug and fishing in the cold water for a glimpse of Alberta's native trout, this is the summer camp to enjoy the outdoors in Kananaskis Country while learning about how it all works. Bus transportation is available from the City of Calgary. Funding support is provided in part by the MD of Rocky View Family and Community Social Services Grant.

To register, contact the
Friends of Kananaskis Country at
(403) 678-5593 or friends@kananaskis.org

Events looking ahead...

Saturday, September 17th, 2005

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elbow River at Bragg Creek



The Elbow River Watershed Partnership in cooperation with Husky Energy will organize the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup event in Bragg Creek. Please contact me (*Monique at 685-5580*) if you can help organize the details or recruit volunteers in Bragg Creek.

**Bow River Basin Council
Quarterly Educational Forum
Wednesday, September 14th, 2005**

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