

November 16, 2021

Attention to: Lacombe County Council  
Lacombe County  
RR3  
Lacombe, Alberta T4L 2N3

## Re: Municipal Support for the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance

Dear Lacombe County Council,

Thank-you for your ongoing support of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA), the designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the Red Deer River watershed. This letter provides an update on the RDRWA's recent activities and our municipal funding process for 2022-23.

### Who We Are

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance was established in 2005 and is one of 11 Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) which partner in the delivery of Alberta's *Water for Life Strategy*. Our vision is that the watershed will be healthy, dynamic, and sustainable through the efforts of the entire community. As a multi-sector not-for-profit organization, a core tenet of our work is that all sectors have a role to play in watershed management.

Our goals are to provide a forum for cross-sector dialogue, to raise awareness of watershed issues, and to promote the use of best practices and the integrated management of land and water resources. We bring many sectors together to tackle watershed issues in practical and innovative ways. Highlights of our work include a *State of the Watershed Report (2009)*, an *Integrated Watershed Management Plan on Water Quality (2016)*, education and outreach programs to thousands of Albertans, regular events, and timely advice on land and water-resource files to members, municipalities, and the provincial government.

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance welcomes the councillors, reeves, and mayors elected in October 2021.

We look forward to working together on watershed projects in your communities.

### An Ongoing Relationship

Your municipality plays a key role in the RDRWA both as a partner and funder. **We rely on the 50 cent per capita funding that comes from municipalities**, and together, municipalities contribute approximately 20% of the RDRWA's annual funding.

Our records show that Lacombe County has been a longstanding supporter of the RDRWA, and we hope to see that relationship continue. Consistent core funding from our partners is integral to the operations of WPACs and supports our ability to lead projects with adequate staff and resources.

## Benefits to Your Municipality

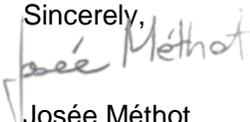
The RDRWA recognizes the role of municipalities as major land-use decision-makers and community leaders. Over the past 15 years, our organization has developed many resources to support communities in the watershed. The RDRWA's work benefits Lacombe County through direct programming and through broader programming that influences the health of local watersheds and regional water security.

Our [2020-2021 Annual Report](#) provides details about recent activities, with highlights including:

- **Source Waters Film:** The RDRWA developed a short [documentary film](#) to raise awareness about the watershed and the importance of water in central Alberta, plus three other educational videos. These films support efforts to raise water literacy across central Alberta.
- **Mapping What Matters:** Working with Fiera Biological Consulting, we mapped the condition of riparian areas along 1,782 kilometers of shoreline in the Medicine-Blindman Rivers watershed and initiated a project to map 4,293 more kilometres in the Little Red Deer, Kneehills, Threehills, and Buffalo sub-watersheds. These projects equip key partners with the baseline information needed to support targeted restoration and conservation programs.
- **Interactive Portal:** The RDRWA developed an [online map portal](#) that also maps "hydrologically significant areas" across the watershed, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This information can be used as a practical tool by municipalities, landowners, and industry.
- **Website and E-Newsletter:** We modernized our website and monthly e-newsletter. To stay up-to-date on the latest water-related news in central Alberta, please subscribe [here](#). We also encourage municipal staff to submit any water-related events to our [community calendar](#).

Thank-you again for being a partner in watershed management. We hope Lacombe County will continue to help fund the work of the RDRWA while participating in key events and programs. If you would like the RDRWA to send you an invoice, please contact Kelly Dodds at [info@rdrwa.ca](mailto:info@rdrwa.ca) or by phone at 403-340-7379. We also ask that you provide us with a primary contact name, phone number, and email address, to ensure your municipality receives regular updates. I would also be pleased to answer any questions or discuss ways that the RDRWA can meet the needs of Lacombe County.

Sincerely,



Josée Méthot  
Executive Director, RDRWA

### Stay Connected

Did you know that the RDRWA offers many ways to connect?

- Sign up for our [monthly e-newsletter](#)
- Participate in our regular forums and events
- Request a presentation to Council and/or staff
- Engage with our outreach and technical committees



CONNECTING