

February 23, 2022

RE: RDRWA Request to Present to Lacombe County Council

Dear Lacombe County Council,

On behalf of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA), I would like to congratulate the recently elected and returning members of Council for Lacombe County.

I am writing to request the opportunity to present to Lacombe County Council on watershed management and beneficial practices for land and water resource management. We would welcome the opportunity to introduce the RDRWA to the new Council, and share the results of an exciting new initiative being led by Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) to map riparian intactness and condition along 40,000 kilometers of shoreline in Alberta, including 1,263 km of shoreline in Lacombe County.

The Riparian Intactness Project aims to provide baseline information and guidance to municipalities related to riparian management and stewardship [please see attached project background]. This project used advanced mapping methods to assess riparian condition, and to help prioritize sites for potential conservation or restoration. The attached *Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessment for Lacombe County* provides a closer look at the condition of riparian areas in the municipality, recognizing the importance of riparian areas for flood and drought resilience and local water quality.

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance operates as the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the Red Deer River watershed, in alignment with the provincial *Water for Life Strategy*. Lacombe County has been a longstanding partner in shared watershed management efforts, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen that relationship in service of common interests and goals.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to have the RDRWA present the results of this work to Lacombe County staff and members of Council, and invite you to learn more about how our new riparian mapping tool can inform decision-making and planning efforts around riparian conservation, restoration and stewardship within Lacombe County.

I am available anytime for a presentation, and details can be coordinated through Kelly Dodds (info@rdrwa.ca; (403)340-7379). Thank-you again for your ongoing commitment to watershed management in the Red Deer River watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josée Méthot".

Josée Méthot
Executive Director
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
On behalf of Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils