

## Integrated Watershed Management Plan Phase Two: Risk Assessment and Priority Setting Process Update—December 2010

Risk Assessment

*The Oldman Watershed Council is continuing the Integrated Watershed Management Planning process.*

*Over the past several months a Core Team of 34 stakeholders from various sectors and sub basins throughout the watershed were brought together for a series of workshops. These workshops focused on assessing risk and identifying planning priorities for the watershed. There is one more workshop planned for January to refine and finish the information for the report. Once the report is finished, the Oldman Watershed Council will set out a ten-year planning cycle, based on the priorities identified, setting outcomes and identifying implementation activities to achieve the set outcomes.*

*The Council will be hosting a set of Open Houses in late February to share with the public results of the Core Team's work.*

### Core Team Workshops

#### WORKSHOP 1

A 1 day workshop was held at the beginning of October to introduce the Core Team members to *consensus building* and *systems thinking*. *Consensus* is a general agreement among the members of a group, so that they are able to support the decision that has been reached. *Systems Thinking* involves looking at a system (eg/ watershed) and understanding how all the components influence one another.



*Workshop 1 was held at the Windy Rafters Barn*

#### WORKSHOP 2

The second workshop was held over 2 days at the end of October. The Core Team was tasked with identifying risk statements under the 5 Outcome Statements developed through Phase 1 of the IWMP. Forty-three risk statements and some initial management actions were prepared. The *State of the Watershed* report as well as Core Team members' personal knowledge of the watershed was used to identify the risk statements and management actions. A *Risk Statement* is the chance of something happening that will have an impact on the objectives, in this case the development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Oldman watershed.



*Core Team hard at work at the 3rd workshop*

#### WORKSHOP 3

A third workshop was held over 2 days in mid-November. The workshop was used to refine and consolidate the 43 risk statements into 33 risk statements and begin discussion of possible treatment options. Although these two days were jam packed with work, the Core Team felt it necessary to come together once more to refine the work and transition the information over to the OWC Board of Directors. Workshop 4 is being scheduled for late January 2011.

## Next Steps

### PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

A DRAFT document is being compiled with all the information gathered at the workshops. The DRAFT report will be taken out to residents in the watershed. This will give the OWC a chance to share with the public the results of the Core Team’s work. The Open Houses will be held in late February, early March.

The FINAL document, Strategic Watershed Assessment and Planning Priority, will be released at the OWC’s Annual General meeting in June 2011.

### AFTER PHASE 2

Once the Strategic Watershed Assessment and Planning Priority report is complete, the Board of Directors and IWMP Team will work on developing a 10 year planning cycle for the Oldman Watershed.

Deciding on the planning priority area will be based on the feasibility of achieving the priorities identified in the Strategic Watershed Assessment and Planning Priority report. Contributing factors include: staff capacity, funding, further research needed and what’s currently happening in the watershed. This is an iterative process and the priorities identified in Phase 2 will provide focus and direction for the Council.

### OTHER PLANNING ACTIVITIES

*During this process, a provincially led regional planning exercise is underway to develop the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan under the Land-use Framework. Recognizing that the Oldman watershed is part of that overall regional system, the Team has worked hard to share information and make linkages where possible.*

*In addition, we are ensuring our downstream WPAC, the South East Alberta Watershed Alliance, is connected to the OWC’s discussions by inviting them to participate in the risk and planning priority workshops.*

## THANK-YOU TO THE IWMP CORE TEAM FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK & ENTHUASIM!!!



**Front Row (L to R):** Ian Gazely; Ron Axelson; Paulette Fox; Doug Kaupp; Adam Judd  
**2nd Row (L to R):** Cheryl Fujikawa; Cheryl Bradley; Brian Laycraft; Sean Robison; Norine Ambrose; Maggie Romuld; Barry Adams; Tom Lynch Stauton  
**3rd Row (L to R):** Martin VanDiemen; Brent Paterson; Brian Hills; Ron Lagamaat; Rick Ross; Dennis Madsen  
**4th Row (L to R):** John Leahy; Rodney Cyr; Brian Meller; Bill Dolan  
**Back Row (L to R):** Phil Edmundson; Tom Crooks; Andy Hurly; John Kolk; Elliot Fox; Axel Anderson  
**Absent:** Ron McMullen; Lenze Kuiper; Ian Dyson; Bunny Mah; Sarah Elmeligi; Kevin France; Kimberly Lyall; Marc Sabourin

