CONTENTS

Preface: Reflections from an Alberta NAWMP Coordinator 1
NAWMP in Alberta 2
Who is Alberta NAWMP? 3
Water for Cattle, Water for Ducks 4
A Tool to Help Protect Watershed Health 5
Revamping Our Website 6
Perspectives on Wetland Economics 7
Revealing Yellow Rail Secrets 8
Committee Reports, 2018-19 9
Contributions to NAWMP in Alberta, 2018-19 and 1986-2019 10
Activity Expenditures and Habitat Accomplishments, 2018-19 and 1986-2019 12
Cooperators 13

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PREFACE: REFLECTIONS FROM AN ALBERTA NAWMP COORDINATOR

For the past two years, I have been fortunate enough to work with all the great people involved in the Alberta NAWMP Partnership, which implements the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in this province. As I move on to a completely different career in art, it has been satisfying to reflect on what we have accomplished during my term as Coordinator.

When I took over from Michael Barr in 2017, I was a bit anxious as to whether or not I could carry on the legacy of the previous Coordinators. After all, there were some big shoes to fill! However, I soon realized that I had no need to worry: the Alberta NAWMP community, particularly the committees and Board, continued to be just as dedicated and passionate as ever about advancing wetland and waterfowl conservation. In fact, over my two years, the scope of the work undertaken by Alberta NAWMP and the five Partner agencies has grown as we saw more need to connect with the public and a broader stakeholder audience, and to become closely involved with the communications around wetland conservation in Alberta.

One of the projects that really stands out for me is the initiation of the Wetland Education Network after a successful pilot in 2016-17. We have brought together people from many sectors to create and share wetland education resources suited to their particular target audiences. Not so long ago, we needed to focus our communications around “what is a wetland?” and “why are wetlands important?” Now, we are attracting eager stakeholders to participate in creating resources about wetland sustainability practices and in discussing the complexities around wetland policies. This informed enthusiasm holds a lot of promise for wetland conservation in Alberta.

In this Progress Review, we highlight another communications project: our complete overhaul of the Alberta NAWMP website. You can read about the website’s exciting upgrades in Revamping Our Website.

Perspectives on Wetland Economics showcases the 2018 Alberta NAWMP Forum. The Dollars and Cents of Wetlands Forum afforded a unique opportunity for participants to consider diverse outlooks on this complex issue, such as the economic challenges for different stakeholders in retaining wetlands and the economic benefits and incentives available for wetland conservation.

Water for Cattle, Water for Ducks looks at a wonderful example of a farmer-initiated wetland restoration project in central Alberta. This Ducks Unlimited Canada project is a win-win for the farm family and for waterfowl.

In A Tool to Help Protect Watershed Health, we learn about a collaborative project to develop a map identifying the parts of the Bow River Watershed that most need protection to ensure the watershed’s hydrological health. This mapping product can help inform decisions around land use planning and conservation priorities in the watershed.

I extend a huge thanks to each and every person in Alberta NAWMP that I’ve had the joy of working with over the past few years.

On behalf of Alberta NAWMP, I am pleased to present the Alberta NAWMP Partnership 2018-2019 Progress Review.

Terra Simieritsch
Outgoing Coordinator
Alberta NAWMP Partnership
NAWMP IN ALBERTA

Created over 30 years ago, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is a landmark partnership between Canada, the United States and Mexico for habitat conservation to sustain continental waterfowl populations.

NAWMP defines and prioritizes geographic regions across the continent based on their biological values for waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds. Its initiatives address regional and continental priorities, using a collaborative approach at local, regional, national and international levels.

NAWMP achieves its goals through voluntary regional partnerships that implement local actions. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) is the regional NAWMP partnership with responsibility for prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes in western Canada. This region contains some of the most productive areas for waterfowl in the world. It is crucial to the maintenance and recovery of mid-continent waterfowl populations.

Since its inception in 1986, the PHJV has developed a series of science-based Habitat Implementation Plans to guide its activities. The PHJV’s 2013-2020 plan is aligned with NAWMP’s 2012 Revision, the most recent update of the international plan.

The 2012 Revision continues NAWMP’s focus on conserving waterfowl populations and their key habitats but adds a heightened emphasis on engagement with hunters, other conservationists and the general public.

The 2013-2020 plan also formally adds the Western Boreal Forest Region to the PHJV’s longstanding geographic focus on the Prairie and Parkland regions. And the plan increases the PHJV’s attention on other types of birds, while maintaining its enduring commitment to waterfowl conservation.

The PHJV includes provincial NAWMP partnerships in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Alberta component of the PHJV’s 2013-2020 plan provides the foundation for Alberta NAWMP’s current activities.

The Alberta NAWMP Partnership is composed of three government and two non-government organizations. It is directed by a Board of Directors and a Management Committee, which are advised by Policy and Communications committees. The members of the Board and the committees are mainly drawn from the five Partner agencies.

Alberta NAWMP coordinates joint projects, communications, planning and policy support, and it facilitates funding options among the Partners. It supports Partner activities through technical and logistical assistance and by advancing innovative ideas through facilitation, funding support and capacity building.

ALBERTA NAWMP (PHJV) VISION
Healthy prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes that support sustainable bird populations and provide ecological and economic benefits to society.

ALBERTA NAWMP (PHJV) MISSION
Provide leadership to achieve healthy and diverse waterfowl and other bird populations through conservation partnerships. These partnerships strive for sustainable and responsible management of the landscape taking into account social, economic and environmental factors.
WHO IS ALBERTA NAWMP?

Advancing conservation together: that sums up what Alberta NAWMP is all about. Its successes in wetland and waterfowl conservation spring from the synergy of working together. Alberta NAWMP is a partnership of one federal and two provincial government departments and two non-government organizations that all have a responsibility for Alberta’s wetlands as part of their mandates.

The five Alberta NAWMP Partners continually seek opportunities to work with each other and with regional and municipal organizations and other stakeholders. These collaborative networks enhance existing wetland stewardship efforts, launch innovative initiatives that otherwise might not happen, and build interest in and capacity for wetland conservation.

Together, the Partners and their collaborators are making exciting progress on shared conservation goals.

HOW WETLAND LANDSCAPES RELATE TO EACH PARTNER AGENCY’S ROLES, OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

GOVERNMENT

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) is the lead provincial agency responsible for the stewardship of Alberta’s air, land, water and biodiversity. AEP administers the Alberta Wetland Policy, the objective of which is to conserve, restore, protect and manage Alberta’s wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society and economy.

The Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry includes the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and a number of agencies, boards and commissions. Among the ministry’s core business activities are: providing the framework and services necessary for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of forests; and enabling environmentally responsible and economically competitive forestry, agriculture and agri-food industries in Alberta and its global marketplaces.

Environment and Climate Change Canada strives to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including water, air, soil, flora and fauna, conserve Canada’s renewable resources, conserve and protect Canada’s water resources, and coordinate environmental policies and programs for the federal government.

PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is a registered charity that has over 80 years of experience in wetland conservation and restoration. DUC partners with government, landowners, industry, Indigenous peoples and non-profit organizations to conserve wetlands for the benefit of society, waterfowl, other wildlife, and the environment.
A few years ago, Randy Radau approached Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) about his idea for a wetland project on his family’s land. Today, he has more water for his cattle and for ducks. “I thought I had probably an ideal spot for a Ducks Unlimited project on our land. It was a wetland area that had been partially drained by the earlier owners of the farmland. We had seen that wetland go dry in previous drought years, and the area just turned to weeds,” he explains. “I wanted to try to prevent that from happening again, and to provide a bit more duck habitat, which we have enjoyed seeing on the place, and a little better water for our cattle.”

The Radau family has been farming at Coulee Crest Farms near Bowden for over 90 years. Randy and his wife Sandra, who have a mixed grain and cattle operation, have a strong interest in nature and a healthy landscape. In fact, they recently won Alberta Beef Producers’ 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award.

“For the Radaus’ project, DUC installed a ditch plug in 2017 to bring the wetland’s depth back up to the pre-drainage level. The plug is designed to withstand a one-in-100-year flood, which was a very good thing considering what happened the following spring.

“In 2018, we had a big snowfall year, as much snow as we would ever get, and a huge, late spring runoff. The berm withstood the flow of water, and the wetland captured a lot of that runoff. Then we had an extremely dry summer, but the wetland maintained its water level. The last time the weather had been that dry, the wetland had gone completely dry,” says Radau.

“So, it wouldn’t have been a better year to see the benefit of the project right off the bat. Instead of shallow, algae-filled water, we had really nice, deeper, fresher water – cattle do better on fresher water. And the ducks had their nesting habitat around it, and migrating ducks and geese had a place to rest. I really think it has been a win-win project.”
A TOOL TO HELP PROTECT WATERSHED HEALTH

With some help from Alberta NAWMP, several groups involved in landscape stewardship in southern Alberta have created a mapping product that identifies the parts of the Bow River Watershed that most need protection to ensure the watershed’s long-term hydrological health.

This tool provides an excellent resource to help inform decisions around land use planning, conservation priorities, and riparian stewardship efforts in the watershed.

About three years ago, Craig Harding with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Justin Thompson with the Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS) came up with the idea for what has become the Bow River Watershed Conservation Priority Mapping project.

“At the time, we had no tool for evaluating which areas of the watershed offer the greatest value for specific ecosystem services like enhancing drought resiliency, reducing flooding, protecting water quality, and maintaining habitat,” explains Harding.

“We wanted a way to think about hydrological systems that doesn’t only identify things that are wet – the watercourses, wetlands and lakes – but also the surrounding areas that are key to sustaining hydrological functioning and watershed health.”

To bring this idea into reality, NCC and SALTS tasked Suzanne Marechal, a Southern Alberta Institute of Technology student, with developing a hydrological conservation priority map for a small part of the Bow Watershed.

After she graduated, Marechal joined Geo-Libre Inc. and was involved in a similar mapping project for the Oldman River Watershed. Then NCC hired Marechal as a full-time staff member, and in 2018, she created a map of the rest of the Bow Watershed.

This mapping process involves multiple data layers, including maps of precipitation amounts, proximity to water, groundwater vulnerability, land cover, slope and surficial geology. These are all factors affecting the value of a parcel of land for performing hydrological functions like slowing runoff, storing water and filtering water. The data layers are integrated to create an enormous dataset that generates the conservation priority map.

NCC, SALTS, the Bow River Basin Council, and the Western Sky Land Trust formed the core team that guided the 2018 Bow project. They got valuable input from other agencies such as Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), the City of Calgary, Alberta NAWMP, and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). The project’s main financial contributors were Alberta NAWMP and the Land Stewardship Centre.

While the Alberta NAWMP Science Fund usually funds academic projects, the Bow project was an opportunity to help create a tool that could engage various types of decision-makers,” says Alberta NAWMP’s Terra Simieritsch.

“We were also excited to participate beyond the role of funder. This allowed us to work with incredible stakeholder groups and create the opportunity for more partnerships to advance sound wetland and watershed conservation decision-making.”

She notes, “Through the expertise of various Alberta NAWMP committee members (especially DUC members), we strengthened the wetland data available to the project, and we created a stronger case for the importance of wetlands in the larger watershed conservation picture.” And of course three of the agencies involved in the project – NCC, AEP and DUC – are Alberta NAWMP Partners.

Harding hopes to have the Bow and Oldman mapping products freely available online in an easy-to-use format later in 2019.

From his perspective, one of the Bow project’s biggest successes is that it ignited the interest of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance in working with NCC and Marechal in 2019 to apply the same mapping approach to the Red Deer Watershed.

“With the Bow, Oldman and Red Deer watershed mapping products, we will have a continuous, standardized dataset that shows the hydrologic values throughout a huge swath of southern Alberta,” he says. “Using the same type of mapping products reinforces shared stewardship values and enhances our abilities to work together across boundaries.”

NCC is also hoping to interest the Alberta Government, municipalities and watershed groups in other parts of the province to employ this mapping approach, to help protect watershed health across Alberta.
REVAMPING OUR WEBSITE

“The old Alberta NAWMP website was definitely due for a facelift. It was over 10 years old, and the biggest issue was the lack of capabilities,” explains Terra Simieritsch, the Alberta NAWMP Coordinator. For instance, with the old website, it was almost impossible to embed videos, difficult to organize and access documents, and hard to use with mobile devices.

So this past year, Simieritsch teamed up with Perpetual Notion Design and the Alberta NAWMP Communications Committee to give the website some much-needed upgrades and a fresh new look.

First of all, the website now functions much better on a technical level. “We’ve brought the new site up to the standards for the web right now. So it is user-friendly whether you’re looking at it on your phone or iPad or iPad Pro – it is built to withstand all of the current browsers,” notes Julie Kramer, Director of Perpetual Notion.

“It is also more secure. And because the text on the old website was not crafted with search engine optimization in mind, the text has been updated in areas that we felt could strengthen its ranking and searchability. As well, it is now much easier to keep the content current; we built it in a really user-friendly format and then provided tutorial videos so anyone in Alberta NAWMP can update it.”

Another important change is the website’s increased focus on communicating with the public. “One of the drivers for updating the website is that we are getting a lot more public traffic,” says Simieritsch. “Alberta NAWMP used to be very internal, but now we have a lot of pieces for public use. So we wanted the public to be able to find those resources more easily.”

Kramer says, “The new website has a friendly, approachable vibe, with natural, earthy tones. It is more visual, and it is easier to find the good information that you are looking for. For instance, we have picked some wonderful photos out of a treasure trove of beautiful photos from the Alberta NAWMP Partners and we’ve made sure those photos are really visible. And you can access publications just by clicking on their icons.” Also, since it’s now so simple to embed videos, there’s a new three-minute video about Alberta NAWMP on the website’s home page.

“We wanted the public to get an eyeful as to what Alberta NAWMP is about as to what Alberta NAWMP is about, what the Partnership has accomplished, who we are, and what value we bring to the whole wetland conservation question,” says Dave Mussell, Chair of the Communications Committee, and Community Engagement Lead with Alberta Environment and Parks.

Mussell really likes the improved functionality of the website’s Partner Login section – the section for internal Alberta NAWMP users, which has meeting notes, agendas and project updates.

“In the Partner Login section, it is now much easier to archive documents and keep things organized,” says Simieritsch. “Also, when you login to access materials for your own committee work, you automatically have a view of some of the top-view pieces that other committees are working on. So it allows more connection among the different committees.”

What Simieritsch likes best about the revamp is the potential to do so much more. “It will be fantastic to provide information in a much more current and easier-to-access way. One focus of the Communications Committee will be to do a short video on a really pertinent topic every year. People are much more likely to watch a two-minute video than to scroll through a 30-page report!”

With all these improvements, this rejuvenated website is turning into the hub of all things Alberta NAWMP – keeping the Partners, stakeholders and the public informed, engaged and excited about wetland and waterfowl conservation in Alberta.

Have a look for yourself at abnawmp.ca!
Perspectives on Wetland Economics

Depending on your viewpoint, you may have different answers to questions like: How do we weigh the economic costs and benefits of retaining a wetland? Who pays those costs? Who receives those benefits? What are the best economic tools to encourage wetland retention?

Alberta NAWMP’s 2018 Forum, The Dollars and Cents of Wetlands, brought together 50 wetland professionals and other stakeholders to gain a broader understanding of wetland economics and consider new outlooks on this sometimes-contentious topic. Nine speakers with diverse backgrounds talked about such issues as: determining monetary values for wetland ecosystem services; economic challenges for different stakeholders in retaining wetlands; and economic incentives for wetland conservation.

“IT’S ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS THAT FIT THE LAND.”

One of the complexities in wetland economics is how to assign financial values to wetlands. Dr. John Pattison-Williams tackled this issue in his presentation about his case study of wetland economics in the Smith Creek Watershed in southern Saskatchewan, a region with many drained wetlands.

Pattison-Williams is President of Pattison Resource Consulting and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Alberta. His Smith Creek analysis targeted certain ecosystem benefits provided by wetlands: flood control, nutrient retention, carbon storage, and recreation.

He selected those benefits because they could be assessed based on biophysical evidence, like the number of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent withdrawn from the atmosphere, and that biophysical data could be tied to a market that sets a financial value on it, like the carbon credit market. He also determined wetland retention costs, such as the opportunity costs to farmers. And he calculated the financial values of the benefits and costs specifically for the Smith Creek Watershed so these values would be easier to communicate to the local people and easier for policy-makers to use in creating a program or policy acceptable to the local people.

His analysis showed that wetland retention provided an attractive social return on investment, while wetland restoration provided a lower return. “So, the main message is: keep the wetlands we have because they are providing a lot of value. If we drain them, we lose that value, and restoring them is costly.”

In another thought-provoking presentation, Marissa Koop and Scott Fash outlined the many economic impacts of urban wetland retention on developers and municipalities. For instance, one serious cost consideration is that utilities can’t follow an efficient grid pattern in a development with a wetland. “Wetlands don’t follow a nice grid, and that turns into more kilometres of sewer pipes, water pipes, roadways. Those all have a cost to install, to maintain, and eventually to replace,” says Koop, Environmental Planning Lead with B&A Planning Group.

From her perspective, the biggest challenge for developers in retaining urban wetlands is that wetland retention is actually the most difficult, costly and time-consuming option from a regulatory approvals standpoint.

For Koop, the forum was a good opportunity to share perspectives. “The truest thing I know as a professional is that we do way better when we work together. I think everyone wants to do the right thing, we want to save wetlands, but we don’t always know how to get there. So, it’s about working together to find solutions that fit the land because no one formula is always going to get us to the right end result.”

According to Pattison-Williams, the forum allowed different voices to be respectfully heard. He adds, “This forum was a great start. I hope to see more from Alberta NAWMP on this, so these initial conversations can lead to tangible progress on the economic aspects of conserving wetland and upland habitat.”
REVEALING YELLOW RAIL SECRETS

Research on a small, elusive marsh bird called the yellow rail is providing insights into its habitat needs and population status in the Lower Athabasca Region (LAR). These insights will have significant implications for conserving yellow rails as development continues in Alberta’s oilsands country.

“Yellow rails are one of the most secretive bird species in North America. You almost never see them. They are nocturnal, they live in very remote wetlands, and within those wetlands they rarely fly; they usually run along the ground through dense vegetation,” explains Dr. Richard Hedley, a University of Alberta Postdoctoral Researcher.

“They are listed under Canada’s Species at Risk Act as a species of special concern because there is concern that they could become threatened or endangered. One of the main reasons for this designation is because we know so little about them.”

Nevertheless, yellow rails are known to have a quite specific habitat requirement: “They like to live in wetlands with between 0 and 15 centimetres of standing water. That suggests they might be very sensitive to water level changes caused by human activity. So we need to figure out where yellow rails are living and how human activities will affect the wetlands they rely on, to help us better plan how to ensure their populations will persist,” he says.

Hedley is a member of the Bioacoustic Unit (BU), a collaboration between the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and Dr. Erin Bayne’s lab at the university. The BU has been monitoring yellow rails in the LAR since 2012.

Acoustic recorders are great for monitoring these birds because the males vocalize loudly at night. So the researchers deploy recording units around the region’s vast network of wetlands.

Alberta NAWMP contributed to this research by funding the 2018 fieldwork. Suncor provided helicopter services to transport the researchers to some of the more remote monitoring sites. Other funders include the Oil Sands Monitoring Program, Imperial Oil, Shell Oil, and Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.

One part of the 2018 fieldwork involved evaluating a yellow rail habitat suitability map developed by the BU. The map turned out to be very good at predicting where to find more yellow rails. Hedley says, “We visited about 50 high suitability wetlands that we hadn’t visited before. We detected yellow rails at 12 of the wetlands and detected 23 yellow rail individuals.” So the map could be useful, for example, in targeting monitoring locations to assess the effects of development on the birds.

The 2018 detections also helped Hedley and his colleagues in creating the first rigorous estimate of the species’ population in the LAR. “Before our group started working on yellow rails, nothing concrete was known about the species’ occurrence in this region. However, some previous estimates had suggested there might be about 500 pairs of yellow rails in the whole of Alberta,” he notes.

“Putting together all of our data since 2012, we found slightly over 200 yellow rail males – which we think implies about 200 pairs of yellow rails – just at locations where we’ve surveyed. Using a model that we built, which extrapolates from our surveys to the whole LAR, we think there are probably at least 1,000 pairs of yellow rails just in this region.”

Hedley explains, “This finding is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, there are more yellow rail individuals than we thought, which could mean they are less threatened. On the other hand, many of the individuals are predicted to be on or adjacent to industrial leases that are slated for development.”

Another part of the 2018 fieldwork involved sound localization, an emerging technique for estimating the precise location of a bird within about a metre by using an array of recording units. Hedley is now analyzing the 2018 localization data. By pinpointing each bird’s location, he will get a clearer picture of the species’ exact habitat needs.

This innovative research is an important step forward in developing strategies to protect this enigmatic marsh bird.
COMMITTEE REPORTS, 2018-19

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members are director-level executives from each Alberta NAWMP Partner agency. They are responsible for: defining Alberta NAWMP’s vision, mission, goals and strategies; directing medium-term implementation plans; approving annual work plans and budgets; and ensuring accountability for work plans and budgets. They also facilitate information exchange and engagement opportunities between their own agency and Alberta NAWMP.

The Board of Directors met in November 2018 and January 2019 and had a video conference call in March 2019. In November, they had a presentation from Marian Weber of InnoTech Alberta about her Alberta NAWMP-sponsored research project linking additionality and wetlands. The Board also received an update on the status of the Alberta NAWMP Work Plan and Budget for FY19 (fiscal year 2018-19). In January, the Board and the Management Committee held a joint strategic planning session for Alberta NAWMP. The March call included a review of the FY19 projects, planning of the transition of Alberta NAWMP Coordination, and approval of the FY20 Work Plan and Budget Report.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members are senior managers from each Partner agency who facilitate integration of operational opportunities between their own agency and Alberta NAWMP. This Committee shares responsibility with the Alberta NAWMP Coordinator for project-based decision-making and expenditures established in annual work plans and medium-term implementation plans.

The Management Committee met three times in 2018-19 and held two conference calls. In the July call, the Committee created systems to incorporate evaluation protocols into specific projects and also weighed in on the Alberta NAWMP Forum. At the October meeting, the members got an update from the Nature Conservancy of Canada on a mapping project (see A Tool to Help Protect Watershed Health), decided on next steps for the Wetland Education Network (WEN) and were updated on the FY19 Work Plan and Budget. In January, they met with the Board to work on strategic planning. In February, the Committee reviewed applications for Alberta NAWMP science funding and decided which projects to fund. In March, they reviewed FY19 progress, examined the evaluation of the WEN project, discussed details around the Coordination transition, and worked through the FY20 Work Plan and Budget. Dave Stepnisky (Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)) joined this Committee in 2018-19.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee leads information sharing, event hosting and promotion among the Partner agencies and beyond. Members are typically communication experts from each Partner agency.

The Communications Committee had three meetings during 2018-19. They met in June for an update on the WEN project from the WEN Coordinator, Christina Pickles. They also planned the re-design of the Alberta NAWMP website (see Revamping Our Website) and discussed the new video for the website. The Committee met in October to receive updates on the website and WEN projects.

At the March meeting, they finalized the website work and discussed communications opportunities for FY20. Joy Aguilar (Environment and Climate Change Canada) joined this Committee in 2018-19.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee members monitor relevant policy, planning and program developments in their agencies and advise on opportunities for Alberta NAWMP support. Members are usually senior policy specialists within the Partner agencies.

The Policy Committee met three times in FY19. At the June meeting, they received an in-depth presentation from Weber about her additionality project and discussed the implications of this research. In September, they received updates on Weber’s project and planned for further projects to undertake in FY19. They also helped plan the Alberta NAWMP Forum (see Perspectives on Wetland Economics). In March, the Committee received an update on the Alberta Wetland Rapid Evaluation Tool (ABWRET) project by Fiera Biological Consulting, reviewed FY19 activities, and created the policy portion of the FY20 Work Plan and Budget. Janet Dietrich (Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta), Tom Lynch-Staunton (Alberta Beef Producers), Fiona Briody (Crop Sector Working Group) and Brendan Hemens (AEP) joined the Policy Committee in 2018-19, and Gerry Haekel (AEP) re-joined. Tracy Scott (Ducks Unlimited Canada) formally became the Committee’s Chair in fall 2018.
## Contributions to NAWMP in Alberta, 2018-19 and 1986-2019

### Agency Type

#### Canadian Corporations

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*Note: North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance is a sub-entity of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.*
## Contributions to NAWMP in Alberta, 2018-19 and 1986-2019

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a. Includes data from Prairie Habitat Joint Venture - Alberta (Source: NAWMP National Tracking System).

* New contributor in 2018-19
# Activity Expenditures and Habitat Accomplishments, 2018-19 and 1986-2019

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## Total Habitat Retention Acres (≥10 Years Through Permanent), 2018-19 and 1986-2019

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### Notes

This table shows expenditures and habitat activities for the Alberta Prairie and Parkland eco-regions (Source: NAWMP National Tracking System). Variable timing of funds both contributed and received under NAWMP may result in differences between total funds received versus expended by partners each fiscal year. Related habitat retention or restoration acres are similarly affected.

### Activities:

- Communication and education: communications specific to activities in approved proposals under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). NOTE: all other communication activities are not eligible for NAWCA funds.
- Conservation planning: biological, agrological and engineering planning and targeting activities that occur prior to actual program delivery.
- Habitat Joint Venture science: activities that evaluate the effects and inform future improvement of the NAWCA program throughout the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.
- Habitat restoration: actions to increase carrying capacity for wetland-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Habitat retention (≥10 years through permanent): protection of wetland and/or upland habitat through land title transfer or binding long-term conservation agreements with landowners.
- Habitat retention (<10 years): activities that promote or directly result in the sustainable use of land for the purpose of conserving wetland-dependent birds and their habitats.
- Habitat Joint Venture science: activities that evaluate the effects and inform future improvement of the NAWCA program throughout the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.
- Land and water policy support: activities that identify or support development of policies benefiting wetlands or associated uplands. NOTE: these activities are not eligible for NAWCA funds.
- Management (habitat assets): actions to maintain carrying capacity for wetland-associated migratory birds and other wildlife on habitat retained for ≥10 years through permanent.
- Species Joint Venture science and research: activities that evaluate the effects and inform future improvement of the NAWCA program throughout the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

### Habitat Acres:

- Habitat Acres, 2018-19: habitat acres retained, restored or managed between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. NOTE: total acres are not cumulative.
COOPERATORS

101105170 Saskatchewan Ltd.
1187397 Alberta Ltd.
Access Land Services Ltd.
Access Pipeline Inc.
Acquired Land Management Inc.
Action Energy Inc.
Advance Land Services
Advantage Oil & Gas Ltd.
Agricore United
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Agriculture and Food Council of Alberta
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Aguila Exploration Consultants Ltd.
Advance Land Services
Advantage Oil & Gas Ltd.
Agricore United
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Agriculture and Food Council of Alberta
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Aguila Exploration Consultants Ltd.
Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd.
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Community Development
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Conservation Tillage Society
Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Alberta Environment and Parks
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company
Alberta Fish and Game Association
Alberta Land and Lease Limited
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Research Council
Alberta Reduced Tillage LINKAGES
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation
Alberta Transportation
Alberta Treasury
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
Alliance Pipeline Limited Partnership
Alonsa Conservation District
Alta Canada Energy Corporation
Alta Energy Corporation
AltaGas Services Inc.
Amar Developments Ltd.
Anadarko Canada Corporation
Anderson Exploration Ltd.
Anonymous Foundation
Antelope Creek Habitat Development
Antelope Land Services Ltd.
Apache Canada Ltd.
ARC Resources Ltd.
Arctos Land Corporation
Argent Energy Inc.
Arizona (State of)
Arnett & Burgess Oilfield Construction Ltd.
Artek Exploration Ltd.
Artemis Energy
Artemis Exploration Inc.
Aspen Endeavour Resources Inc.
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
ATB Financial
ATCO Electric Ltd.
ATCO Gas
ATCO Structures & Logistics Ltd.
Atlas Land Consultants Ltd.
Aurora Land Consulting Ltd.
Avalanche Energy Limited
Avid Oil & Gas Ltd.
B P Canada Energy Company
Barbeejay Supplies Ltd.
BASF Canada Inc.
Battle River Credit Union Ltd.
Bayer CropScience Canada
Bayer CropScience Inc.
Baytex Energy Ltd.
Bear River Credit Union Ltd
Beaverbrook Development Inc.
Beaverhill Lake Nature Centre
Ben’s Trucking and Landscaping
Big Country Energy Services LP
Big Hat Oil & Gas Ltd.
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.
Bonavista Energy Trust Ltd.
Bonavista Petroleum Ltd.
Bonnyville (Municipality of)
Bow River Irrigation District
Bow West Consulting Ltd.
Bowwood Energy Corp.
Boyd Petro Search
Brisgas Resources Ltd.
British Petroleum Canada
Britt Resources Ltd.
Buffalo Resources Corp.
Burlington Resources Inc.
Byrne’s Agri Service Ltd.
Calare Exploration Ltd.
Calbressa Resources Limited
Calgary (City of)
California Department of Fish and Game
California (State of)
Cameron Development Corporation
Camrose County
Canada Capital Energy Corporation
Canada Melting Co. Ltd.
Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
Canada West Land Services Ltd.
Canadian Cattlemen’s Association
Canadian Circumpolar Institute
Canadian Forest Products
Canadian Landmasters Resource Services Ltd.
Canadian National Railway
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Canadian Nature Federation
Canadian Pacific
Canadian Superior Energy Inc.
Canadian Water Resources Association
Canadian Water Resources Association
Canetic Resources Trust
Cannat Resources Inc.
Capitol Energy Resources Ltd.
Cargill Inc.
Caribou Land Services
Carlton 142 Inc.
Carriage Lane Estates Inc.
Carstairs (Town of)
Cavalier Land Ltd.
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Cenovus Energy Inc.
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<td>Cossack Land Services Ltd.</td>
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<td>Cowie Cattle Company Ltd.</td>
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<td>Crescent Point Resources Limited Partnership</td>
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<td>CrossAlta Gas Storage &amp; Services Ltd.</td>
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<td>Cygnet Lake Drainage District</td>
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<td>D.J. Old Ltd.</td>
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<td>Data Trek Exploration (1986) Ltd.</td>
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<td>Edwards Land (Calgary) Ltd.</td>
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<td>Enbridge Inc.</td>
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<td>Integrity Land Inc.</td>
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<td>Inter Pipeline Fund</td>
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<td>Interlake Grasslands Society</td>
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International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Invermay (Rural Municipality of)
IPSCO Inc.
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation
Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship
Jacqui Shumiatcher S.O.M., LL.D.
Jaffer Real Estate Limited Partnership III Inc.
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Kelkyl Holdings Ltd.
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Keyera Energy Facilities Limited
KeyWest Energy Corporation
Kinder Morgan, Inc.
Kinsmen Club of Yorkton
Krang Energy Inc.
L. Griffin Management Inc.
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Lakeland Industry & Community Association
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Lamont County
Lamont Gas Co-op Ltd.
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Landwest Resource Services Ltd.
Lane Land Services Ltd.
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Luscarr Ltd.
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Manitoba Conservation
Manitoba Finance
Manitoba Forage Council
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Manitoba Wildlife Federation Habitat Foundation
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Meewasin Valley Authority
Meighen Haddad & Co.
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Millennium Bureau of Canada
Minburn County
Minco Gas Co-op Ltd.
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Monsanto Canada
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Montana Resources Ltd.
Moose Mountain Buffalo Ranch
Mor-West Ventures Inc.
Mountain Equipment Co-op
MSL Land Services Ltd.
Murphy Oil Company, Ltd.
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NAL Resources Limited
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Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
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Nature Canada
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
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Pangea Land Ltd.
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Park Ridge Homes Ltd.
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Parkland County
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Parks Canada - Elk Island National Park
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PCL Construction Management Inc.
Peace Parkland Native Stewardship Program
Peace Parkland Naturalists
Pengrowth Corporation
Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
Petro Line Upgrade Services Ltd.
Petro-Canada
Petrofund Corporation
Petroland Services Ltd.
Petrolane Consulting Ltd.
PEW Charitable Trusts
2018-2019 PROGRESS REVIEW

Pheasants Forever
Pickseed Canada Inc.
Pioneer Land Services Ltd.
Pioneer Professional Services Group
Ponoka County
Polar Hill Resources Ltd.
PotashCorp
Prairie Land & Investment Services Ltd.
Prairie Land Consultants Inc.
Prairie Land Service Ltd.
Prairie Mines and Royalty Ltd.
Prairie Plantation Inc.
Prairie Roadbuilders Limited
Price Waterhouse Coopers
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Prime West Energy Inc.
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Rockyview Gas Co-op Ltd.
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Roy Northern Land Service Ltd.
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Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization
Saskatchewan Conservationist
Saskatchewan Council for Community Development
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Saskatchewan Environment
Saskatchewan Environmental Protection Fund
Saskatchewan Finance
Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
Saskatchewan Government Relations and Rural Affairs
Saskatchewan Minerals
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Saskatoon (City of)
SaskEnergy Incorporated
SaskPower
SaskTel
SBW Cattle Company Ltd.
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Seamac Land Services Ltd.
Search Energy Corp.
SeCan
Seisland Surveys Ltd.
Serrano Energy Ltd.
Shell Canada Products Ltd.
Shell Conservation Internship Program
Shell Environmental Fund
Shepard Limited Partnership
Shiningbank Energy Income Fund
Sierra Vista Energy Ltd.
Signalta Resources Limited
Silverado Properties Ltd.
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South Peace Wilderness Society
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Board
Spy Resources Ltd.
Spy Hill (Regional Municipality of)
St. Albert (City of)
St. Mary River Irrigation District
St. Paul County
Standard Land Company Inc.
Star Oil & Gas
Starboard Gas Ltd.
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Strategic Land Services Inc.
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Suncor Energy Inc.
Sundance Forest Industries Inc.
Sundance Land Services Ltd.
Sunwest Canada Energy Limited
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Synterra Technologies Ltd.
Takota Land Ltd.
Talisman Energy Inc.
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TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tempest Energy Corporation
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Terra-Sine Resources Ltd.
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The Donner Canadian Foundation
The Flanagan Foundation
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
The Kahanoff Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The W. Garfield Weston Foundation
The Woodcock Foundation
Thompson & Associates, Inc.
Thunder Energy Inc.
TNC Wilson Challenge Fund
Tofield (Town of)
Touchdown Land Consultants Ltd.
Tourism for Tofield Foundation
Tournament Exploration Ltd.
TransAlta Corporation
TransCanada Corporation
Transfeeder Inc.
TransGas Limited
 Traverse Landgroup Ltd.
Trident Exploration Corp.
Trilogy Energy Corp.
Triton Energy Corporation
True Energy Inc.
Tudor Corporation Ltd.
Tundra Oil and Gas, Limited
Turtle Mountain Conservation District
Twin Butte Energy Ltd.
Two Hills (County of)
Union Pacific Resources Ltd.
United Farmers of Alberta
United Grain Growers
United States Bureau of Reclamation
United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
University of Regina
Univex Land Services
Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District
Val Vista Energy Ltd.
Venturion Natural Resources Limited
Vermilion Energy Trust
Vermilion Resources
Vermilion River (County of)
Viterra
Vonda (Town of)
VSD Developments Corporation
Vulcan County
Wainwright (Municipal District of)
WAM Development Group
Waterfowl Research Foundation Inc.*
Wave Energy Ltd.
Wayco Land Services
Western Feedlots
Western Irrigation District
Westfire Energy Ltd.
Weyerhaeuser
Wheatland County
Wheatland Industrial Park Inc.
Wilburforce Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
William H. Donner Foundation
Winnipeg (City of)
World Wildlife Fund Canada
Wyoming (State of)
Yorkton Wildlife Federation
Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Zahmol Properties Ltd.
Zapata Energy Corporation
Zargon Energy Trust
Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd.

* New in 2018-19

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Darwin Chambers, Ducks Unlimited Canada

DC
Ducks Unlimited Canada

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Loreley Will Kaps

NA
Natasha Annich, Bioacoustic Unit

NCC
Nature Conservancy of Canada

RH
Richard Hedley, Bioacoustic Unit

RS
Rob Simieritsch

SM
Suzanne Marechal

TS
Terra Simieritsch
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Greg Hale
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Or visit abnawmp.ca

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