

Athabasca Watershed Council: Information for Prospective Board Members

Our Watershed—Our Responsibility

Starting at its headwaters at the Columbia Glacier in Jasper National Park, the Athabasca River travels 1,231 km before it flows into Lake Athabasca. The watershed spans nearly 159,000 square kilometers (about 24% of the province) and, in 2001, was home to almost 155,000 people (5% of the provincial population). The watershed includes all or part of 16 counties and municipal districts, 8 municipalities, and 14 Aboriginal settlements. It is simultaneously an important source of natural resources and the site of diverse and delicate ecosystems.

The Athabasca Watershed Council

The Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC-WPAC) is a registered not-for-profit organization formed in August 2009. As a multi-stakeholder organization, we are a neutral organization that works with academia, industry, environmental groups, various levels of government, communities, and citizens to provide timely and credible information about the Athabasca Watershed. The AWC-WPAC champions scientific reports on the State of the Watershed and develops outreach initiatives aimed at educating citizens in communities throughout the watershed, from Jasper to Fort Chipewyan.

The AWC-WPAC is a designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) working in partnership with the Government of Alberta towards achieving the three goals of the provincial *Water for Life* strategy:

- Safe, secure drinking water;
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems;
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

We are working towards achieving these goals through:

- Identification of environmental issues in the watershed (water, air, land, and biodiversity). This process involves the compilation, analysis, and interpretation of scientific and technical information and the presentation of those findings in a State of the Watershed (SoW) Report;
- Development of a set of recommendations, suggesting solutions to the issues identified in the SoW Report. This work will eventually guide an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP);
- Promoting engagement and sharing knowledge throughout the watershed.

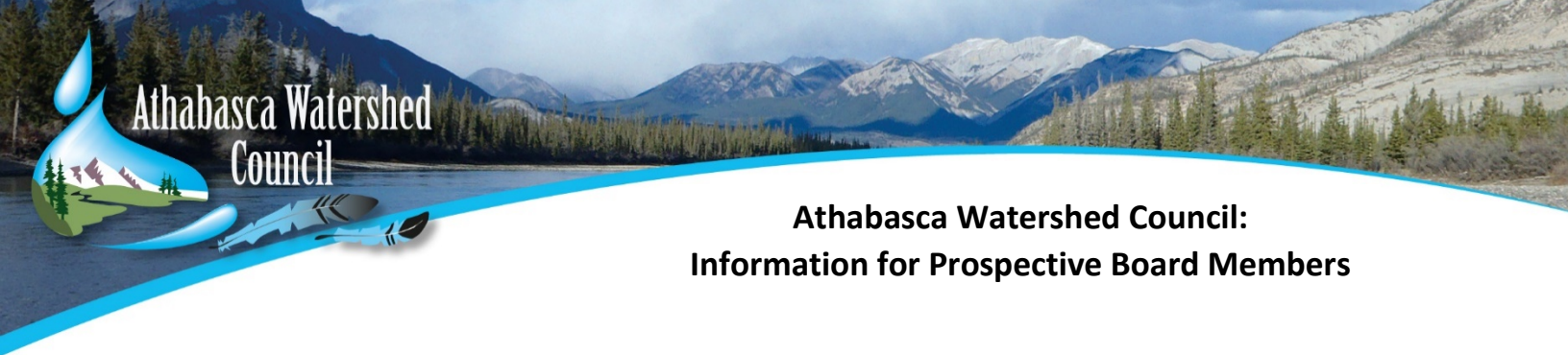
Our Vision

The Athabasca watershed is ecologically healthy, diverse and dynamic.

Our Mission

The Athabasca Watershed Council promotes, fosters respect, and plans for an ecologically healthy watershed by demonstrating leadership and facilitating informed decision-making to ensure environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

For more information, please visit our website: www.awc-wpac.ca



Athabasca Watershed Council: Information for Prospective Board Members

Thank you for considering putting your name forward for a position on the AWC-WPAC Board of Directors. Here are some things you should know:

Our Board of Directors

The AWC-WPAC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of up to 21 members. In addition to one appointed seat for Alberta Environment and Parks and the Past-Chair, there are specified seats for aboriginals (3 seats), industry (5 seats), non-governmental organizations (5 seats), government (4 seats), and members at large (2 seats). The membership elects the Board Chair at the Annual General Meeting, and the Board of Directors elects the remainder of the Executive Committee (including the Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer).

Time commitment

The Board of Directors meets roughly every two months, or as required. Most meetings are held in a central location (often in Athabasca) but may potentially be held anywhere in the watershed. Most meetings are two days long. In addition to regular board meetings, there is an AGM each year (usually held in late spring/early summer).

If you become a board member, it is expected that you will attend all of these meetings. If you cannot attend, it is hoped that you send your alternate. If that cannot be arranged, please notify the chair of your absence.

Board members serve a two-year term, with the possibility of being re-elected for additional terms.

Committees

The AWC-WPAC has several standing committees, and we hope that all board members become an active member of at least one committee. The standing committees include: the Technical Committee, the Communications and Community Engagement Committee, the Finance and Fundraising committee, the Human Resources Committee, and the Executive Committee. Standing committees can expect to hold face-to-face meetings twice a year but meetings are held by teleconference as required. Ad hoc committees may also be formed as work arises.

Performance expectations for board members

When you become a board member, you will receive a binder containing our foundational documents and we ask that you become acquainted with the AWC-WPAC bylaws, Terms of Reference, policies, etc. You will also be provided with access to a Board Member section on our website, which will enable you to access all documents as they are generated.

We would ask that you show active participation in board and committee meetings by attending all meetings, being punctual, preparing for the meeting, asking questions and participating in discussions, providing feedback on various documents and initiatives, supporting and participating in events, and showing initiative.

Being a board member is hard work, but we also find time to make new friends, to get out into the environment, and to celebrate our successes.

Thank you for your interest in the Athabasca Watershed Council!