



BRBC Annual Report 2021 - 2022

*working together to nurture, renew and protect
the waters of the bow river basin*

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Message from the Chair: Erwin Braun

It has been another amazing year for the BRBC! Finally, we were able to transition to in-person meetings, which included a September retreat for Board members to focus on long-term priorities (culminating in the 2022-2025 Business Plan) and a collaborative vision for short- and long-term goals. I extend my deepest thanks to Megan Van Ham, who skillfully facilitated this planning session.

Changes are on the horizon for the BRBC Board. As they leave their positions, our best wishes to Zennon Zalusky (who served on the Board for many years as Treasurer) and Marie-Hélène Beauchemin (who served the Board under the Regulatory/Administrative/First Nations category). On behalf of the BRBC, thank you Zennon and Marie-Hélène for your contributions over the years – the BRBC is that much stronger because of your commitment and support.

While the BRBC saw the occasional in-person gathering, our Standing Committees connected primarily online. Going forward, each committee will likely evolve their meeting approaches to suit their members' needs and their committee deliverables. However this unfolds, there is no doubt that during the

past year our committees met and exceeded all challenges. Due to their commitment and hard work, the BRBC delivered quarterly forums, a science forum, drought and flood workshops, a citizen science workshop (with over 1200 registrations) and key communication pieces (e.g., a BRBC Land Acknowledgment). These committees remain our core strength. My thanks to all committee members for their resilience and steadfast dedication.

I also wish to thank all of the supporters of the BRBC for their continued solid endorsement of our goals and activities. The continuity afforded by such support has allowed the organization to successfully navigate and respond to uncertainty and rapidly shifting priorities. As a result, the BRBC continues to grow in both size and capacity, enabling world-class contributions to watershed management in the basin.

Last August, we were very fortunate to welcome Brooke Kapeller in her position as BRBC Program Coordinator. Brooke has taken on the role with enthusiasm and has used her considerable skills and knowledge

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BRBC Board Members

BRBC Chair: Erwin Braun

Treasurer: Zennon Zalusky

Executive Director: Mike Murray

Commercial/Industrial:

Jason Mogilefsky / Liliana Bozic

Municipal Government:

Brian De Jong (Jason Schneider)

Carolyn Bowen (Harpreet Sandhu)

Non-Profit/Academic

Pablo Pina (Nisha Saini)

Alan Breakey

**Regulatory/Administrative/
First Nations**

Rob Wolfe / Marie-Hélène
Beauchemin

Licensee:

Scott Taylor

Richard Phillips (1st Vice President)

Individual Public:

Steve Meadows (2nd Vice President)

Erwin Braun

to keep our committees and events as successful as ever. Her talents will greatly assist the development of our next State of the Watershed report, which is now in its initial phase. BRBC Financial and Member Services Officer, Medini Prasai, continued to ensure the smooth running of BRBC finances and membership support. The support that he provides through fund development and project reporting is critical to our success. Our Publications Editor, Andrea Czarnecki, worked hard to deliver high-quality newsletters and bulletins that showcase not only our members' watershed efforts, but also news and research from around the world. BRBC Executive Director Mike Murray skillfully and diligently helped navigate the organization through unprecedented times. There was no road map, but through it all Mike moved the BRBC forward

with consistency and initiative. I appreciate all the work, support and initiative Mike and his staff have put forward for the membership, Board and supporting me as Chair of this wonderful organization.

The achievements of the past year are a testament to the BRBC membership as a whole. Thank you, BRBC members, for your dedication and support. Together we have accomplished a great deal and I am confident that we will continue to do so in the coming years.

As I finish my last term on the Board and leave my role as Chair, I know that the organization is strong, vibrant and in the very capable hands of the Board, members and staff. I look forward to seeing you at future BRBC events as I intend to step back but not away!

BRBC Committee Updates

Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Jen Makar, Co-chair

This year was exciting for the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) as we gained momentum and took on new projects. The SEC continued to meet online and so maintained connections between our members. We are looking forward to resuming our in-person meetings when it is safe to do so. The SEC continued to deliver on our core activities including virtual forums, the Annual General Meeting and the quarterly newsletter, "Preserving Our Lifeline." This year the SEC worked with Haskayne School of Business MBA students to explore ways to reinvigorate our member engagement and strengthen connections across the BRBC. This was exciting as we were able to tap into their expertise and

build new relationships with the UofC. We look forward to incorporating what we learned through this experience into future SEC projects. The SEC also supported the creation of an Indigenous Land Acknowledgment to be included at BRBC events. This was a learning experience that we intend to build upon over time.

The SEC is pleased to report that our efforts to ensure a consistent social media presence have resulted in continued growth on various platforms. The BRBC had 422 Facebook likes (with an average post reach of 84 people). There are also 1324 BRBC Twitter followers (with a monthly average of 4400 impressions) and 556 Instagram followers (with

BRBC Committees

Governance
Chair: Steve Meadows

Legislation and Policy
Co-Chairs: Judy Stewart
Rob Wolfe

Science
Co-chairs: Alan Breakey
Cecilia Chung (Wendell Koning)

Stakeholder Engagement
Co-chairs:
Harpreet Sandhu / Jennifer Makar

Youth and Young Professionals
Co-chairs: Pablo Pina / Nisha Saini

Watershed Stewardship
Co-chairs: Liliana Bozic
Marie-Hélène Beauchemin

an average post reach of 127). Now more than ever this digital presence helps maintain the public face of the BRBC, ensuring that while members may not be able to meet in person, we are nevertheless continuing to share information and learn from one another.

The SEC meets approximately eight times annually. It is comprised of members with very diverse backgrounds and there is a standing invitation for any interested individuals to join the committee. Please contact Medini Prasai at medini.prasai@brbc.ab.ca for details.

Legislation and Policy Committee

Judy Stewart, Chair

All Legislation and Policy Committee meetings in 2021 and up to May 2022 have been held online. Thankfully, the regular members of the Committee were in attendance because we had a great deal of legislation and policy work to consider this past year.

The 2021 workshop about aggregate registration application and approval processes led to a series of information sharing sessions with representatives of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). The Committee created a “What We Learned” document to help in future discussions with BRBC members about the complexity of government approval processes. We are grateful for the time AEP staff spent with us, and hope that discussions of this kind will continue in the future following our workshops.

The spring workshop, Flood Update 2022, was well attended and our speakers were fantastic, as usual. The Committee acknowledged that this workshop could just as easily have been about potential drought in the face of severe weather events arising from climate change. Like last year, we hosted two morning sessions. The first session was about the physical science of flooding, and the second provided case studies of projects and programs that have emerged in the Bow River Basin as a result of the 2013 flood.

Summaries of the 2022 presentations will appear in the BRBC Newsletter throughout the spring, summer and fall. We have already shared the summary of Peter Onyshko’s presentation, “[Provincial Flood Mapping](#),” to ensure that all BRBC members will benefit from this shared knowledge.

In May, the Committee met in person for the first time since March 2020. Over the summer, we hope to continue to prepare summaries of presentations and assist with BRBC projects that require our input and analysis of federal, provincial and municipal legislation and policy. The Committee welcomes any topic where we have the expertise to address the issues, such as the emerging roles and responsibilities of WPACs and WSGs under the Water for Life governance system, recent amendments to the *Municipal Government Act*, and implementation of the *Water Act*.

We are always looking for new members to round out our range of expertise, and in September we will be discussing topics for the 2023 spring workshop. We are hoping that most of our meetings and the workshop will be held in person.



Ghost Watershed. Photo: Mike Murray

Watershed Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Liliana Bozic, Chair

The 2022 Watershed Stewardship Coordinating Committee (WSSC) membership consists of representatives from:

- Watershed Stewardship Groups: Nose Creek Watershed Partnership, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Ghost Watershed Alliance Society, Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society, Highwood Management Plan Public Advisory Committee; Big Hill Creek Preservation Society, and Calgary River Valleys
- Government agencies: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ENGOs: Foothills Land Trust and the Riverwatch Institute of Alberta
- Individual stewards
- BRBC Program Coordinator and Board Chair.

The Committee met twice during this past term, both times virtually. During the meetings, member activities were shared and collaboration opportunities were discussed. Some of the regular programs were still on hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, however members remained busy working on grant applications and reports.

Many field programs are planned for this summer, including monitoring, riparian restoration and bioengineering projects and workshops.

A shared educator role was discussed, and it was agreed that this role would be very valuable in coordinating a variety of educational initiatives across the watershed groups.

The BRBC will be connecting with Watershed Stewardship Groups to start discussions about getting sub-basin State of the Watershed reports online.

Committee goals for this year include:

- More connections with other BRBC committees, especially the Science Committee
- Raising awareness of Watershed Stewardship Groups' work
- Increasing GIS capacity
- Pursuing the shared educator role
- Connecting with industry to secure project funding and expert support.

Youth and Young Professionals

Pablo Pina, Chair

The Youth and Young Professionals Committee (YYP) currently has around 40 members, of which approximately 15 are active.

From April to May 2021, the YYPC prepared a useful list of updates for BRBC staff to consider in the upcoming website re-vamp. The YYPC updated its terms of reference in June 2021 to widen its scope to include more young professionals. Starting in October 2021, YYPC members have been supporting the Science Committee in planning for the Science Forum.

The YYPC's primary activity in 2022 has been coordinating and running a set of tours of stormwater and green infrastructure surrounding Calgary, in collaboration with MAGNA Engineering. The first two fantastic tours in February and April

were attended by approximately 15 people each, from a variety of sectors in the watershed, and have proven to be a fun way to learn about stormwater management innovations in the Bow Basin!



Youth and Young Professionals Committee Stormwater Tour. Photo: YYPC

Science Committee

Alan Breakey, Co-chair

The fiscal year 2021-2022 was very active for the Science Committee. Meetings were held monthly with high participation by the members who enthusiastically embraced the Zoom format. Perhaps surprisingly, the format proved not to be a hindrance to getting things done. Committee accomplishments for the year included the following:

1. The questionnaire that was sent out to all groups collecting Citizen Science data in the Bow River Basin was received back at the end of the first quarter of 2021 and Nilo Sinnatamby analysed the information and compiled a very effective infographic summarizing all the responses. The infographic was then circulated to all respondents as well as to all members of the BRBC. There was unanimous enthusiasm among respondents for the Committee's proposed Citizen Science workshop and this questionnaire has been a critical component in the planning process for the workshop, which was held on April 12th under the guidance of Klas Ohman and his subcommittee.
2. A number of Science Committee members acted as mentors to students undertaking a water reuse study led by Kelsey Sostar in the Integrated Water Management program at SAIT. It is anticipated that Science Committee members will be involved with various student capstone projects as suitable projects are identified over time.
3. Immediately following the Science Forum, which was held as a series of virtual webinars in February and March of 2021, planning for the 2022 Science Forum began, guided by Wendell Koning and his subcommittee with additional support from Pablo Pina, Nisha Saini, and the BRBC Young Professionals Committee. The call for abstracts went out just before Christmas and the subcommittee received 30 submissions from a wide spectrum of scientists. With this kind of response, it was no surprise that the Science Forum, which was held at SAIT on May 4th, was a stimulating and engaging event.
4. As has been done in the past, the Science Committee continued to host special virtual presentations during its monthly meetings. The featured presentation for this fiscal year was by Dr. Chris Buse and his team from UBC, who spoke about their Alberta Foothills EnviroScreen project, which has developed a computer simulation for assessing the cumulative effects of multiple uses along the foothills of Alberta. Perhaps most interestingly, the simulation also includes data from Alberta Health in addition to the usual measures for industrial and recreational development.

Because of family and work commitments, Cecilia Chung has decided to step down as co-chair of the Science Committee. Cecilia always fulfilled her co-chair responsibilities with exceptional, understated skill and dedication. The Science Committee would like to thank her for her long-standing contributions. We are very fortunate that one of our veteran committee members, Wendell Koning, has stepped up to fill Cecilia's role.

Governance Committee

Steve Meadows, Chair

The 2021 Governance Committee membership consisted of three Board members (one of whom is a member of the Board Executive) and the Executive Director.

The Committee met once during this past term to review a contract.

The Committee continues to review governance-related matters as required by the Board.



Griffith Woods, Calgary. Photo: Mike Murray

The Last Word ...

It is a delight to work with the volunteer committees of the BRBC. The energy, expertise and knowledge you bring to the organization is inspiring. This year was another one to highlight the power of working together to do great things. We continued to work our way through the pandemic which provided many challenges but we have also learned new skills and developed new strategies to work together.

The membership is the strength of the organization, and we were very fortunate to be able to retain and strengthen this area. Fund development through our members continues to be strong which is something I never take for granted. With so many competing issues and needs it is gratifying to know that we still provide the membership and partners with valuable products and opportunities. Thank you for your support!

Our committees were able to accomplish a great deal with hosting successful events and workshops throughout the year. As an organization, we have been developing our abilities to work online when we need to. The May 4th Science Forum saw a return to in-person events and feedback was very positive. The speakers were excellent, the venue was outstanding, and the food was delicious!

Projects continue to develop with the State of the Watershed reporting underway and we hope to engage many of you in the coming two years to make this report the best ever. Currently staff are collecting datasets and working with some of

the stewardship groups who have already completed a "State of" draft, to see where we can collaborate on building the full report and associated website. The Stakeholder Engagement Committee is also working to implement recommendations from the Haskayne School of Business MBA students on better communication strategies and tools to connect with members and stakeholders in the basin. The committee is also working toward a refresh of the BRBC branding as well as a new website. Both initiatives are planned to be unveiled in Fall 2022.

Working with our WPAC colleagues has seen a remarkable level of collaboration in the past year. We have increased our efforts to work together to achieve our shared goals, and a new committee has been struck to build communication pathways and to further improve information sharing. We are also currently working through our WPAC representative on the Water for Life 10 Year Action Plan. This ambitious planning initiative is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. It's amazing to realize that the Water for Life Strategy is nearing 20 years old!

We are very fortunate to have our team of BRBC staff and I really appreciate all the effort and dedication that Medini and Andrea have put in this year. They continue to impress me and those they work with year after year. This year also saw our newest staff member, Brooke Kapeller, join the organization. Brooke has quickly adapted to the role and is a pleasure to work with! Welcome aboard Brooke. I also hope that many of you will have the opportunity to meet our summer student, Aidan Yakymyshyn. Aidan will be helping with development of our State of the Watershed report as well as helping our stewardship partners when necessary in the field.

I hope that those of you who have yet to experience working on a committee will consider joining one – this is a great time to do so. We have accomplished a lot this year and we have also had quite a bit of fun at the same time. Most of our committees will be using both online and in-person meetings starting in the fall. I hope that you have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in the watershed!

- Mike Murray
BRBC Executive Director



Bow Lake. Photo: Mike Murray

Financial Statements

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The Bow River Basin Council Society incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta Statement of Financial Position for the year ended March 31, 2022

All values are \$CDN.

Please refer to the March 31, 2022 Auditor's Report for official financial statements.

ASSETS					
2022				2022 Total	2021 Total
Current	Operating Fund	Casino Fund	Operating Reserve		
Operating Cash	\$714,356	\$27,320	-	\$741,676	\$924,642
Unrestricted Investments	269,230	-	-	269,230	526,692
Restricted Cash and Investments	-	-	959,135	959,135	662,682
Accounts Receivable	12,259	-	-	12,259	6,507
Due to Operating Fund	-	(5,287)	-	(5,287)	3,174
	995,845	22,033	\$959,135	1,977,013	2,123,697
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
LIABILITIES					
2022				2022 Total	2021 Total
Current					
Accounts Payable	\$4,049	-	-	\$4,049	\$3,649
Due from Casino Fund	(5,974)	-	-	(5,974)	3,173
	(1,925)	-	-	(1,925)	6,822
NET ASSETS					
	997,770	22,033	959,135	1,978,983	2,116,875
	995,845	22,033	959,135	1,977,013	2,123,697

The BRBC gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following supporters ...

Sustaining Partners

(3 years or more of consecutive support)

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association	Rob Wolfe
Bow River Irrigation District	Sandra Stead
City of Brooks	Steve Meadows
City of Calgary	Suzanne Oel
County of Newell	Town of Banff
Eastern Irrigation District	Town of Black Diamond
Executive Director Glacier Legacy Funds	Town of Canmore
Foothills County	Town of Cochrane
Government of Alberta	Town of Okotoks
John Groeneveld	TransAlta Generation Partnership
MD of Bighorn	Western Irrigation District
Perlette Fund	Wheatland County
	Wolf Keller

Project Supporters

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation	Spray Lakes Sawmills
Alberta Environment & Parks	TD Friends of the Environment
Calgary Airport Authority	The Calgary Foundation
City of Airdrie	Town of Cochrane
Land Stewardship Centre	
MD of Bighorn	

Annual Supporters

Andrew Chan	Government of Canada
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Canada Online Giving	Mark Bennett
Cecilia Chung	Medini Prasai
Christopher Shank	Megan Van Ham
David Swann	Mike Murray
Eco Canada	Paypal Giving Fund
Elizabeth Hicks	Town of Vauxhall

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