



The 2nd Annual Water Week Conference – Friday Special Presentation

Included with Conference Registration

The Value of Source Water – Alberta Perspectives

Phil Boehme, Alberta Environment & Parks; Mike Christensen, EPCOR; Harpreet Sandhu, City of Calgary; Adam Norris, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance; Leah Kongsrude, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Friday, November 15, 8:30 – 11:45 am

The session will feature five presentations representing various Source Water Programs and Initiatives in Alberta.

1. Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta – Phil Boehme, Alberta Environment & Parks



In 2018, the Alberta Water Council (AWC) formed a project team to provide guidance on “Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta”. The project included surveys of water systems and an assessment of the SWP practices, processes, risks and initiatives in Alberta. A jurisdictional scan was completed to examine SWP approaches in selected areas. The results of this project will be presented including an introduction to the guidance document to support source water protection in Alberta.

2. The City of Edmonton’s Source Water Protection Plan – Mike Christensen, EPCOR

Source Water Protection (SWP) has long been recognized as an integral part of a multi-barrier approach for water utilities to protect both quality and quantity of water sources now and into the future. SWP planning is a strategy for water utilities designed to minimize the impacts human activities and natural events have on water sources. EPCOR developed its SWP for Edmonton’s drinking water system in 2008, and has regularly updated the document. An overview of EPCOR’s SWP will be presented.

3. The City of Calgary’s Source Water Protection Plan – Harpreet Sandhu, City of Calgary



In response to a variety of risks and challenges, The City of Calgary recently completed a Source Water Protection Plan (Plan). The Plan provides a cohesive framework for source water protection challenges and priorities, in the context of existing regulatory frameworks, plans, and guidelines. By implementing more proactive source water protection today, we can help mitigate risks and maintain high quality source water for current and future generations.

4. The Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Experience – Adam Norris, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

The Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer provides water to approximately 7,000 people in several communities and on rural properties. It is a reliable source of generally good quality water that is very accessible and where the overburden is less than 4 metres in some places. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer, a review of the partners involved and the process used to complete a Source Water Protection Plan.

5. North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance – Leah Kongsrude, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Much like the quote, “It takes a village to raise a child”, the well-being of our communities rely on the health and resilience of our watersheds. Whether the community need is for safe drinking water, reliable water sources for the local economy or water to sustain valued natural assets, using a watershed perspective and collaborative partnerships are essential. This presentation will provide examples and insights on this idea from a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council perspective.