



Municipalities and Stakeholder Advisory Groups
Project Update: WQ²
June 16, 2026

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About LILSA

Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne Stewardship Society

- ✓ There was a lake management society that was formed by a group of concerned residents. It was disbanded in the 1990's. After complaints to Lac Ste Anne County ("LSAC"), this society (now LILSA) was reinstated at the request of the Association of the Summer Villages of Lac Ste Anne East.
- ✓ Non-profit society
- ✓ Volunteer Organization
- ✓ Objectives:
 - Undertake the collection of data and information to increase knowledge
 - Educate and increase the public's understanding
 - Participate in programs to promote and protect the lake and watershed
 - Collaborate with other organizations with similar objectives
- ✓ Successes:
 - Worked in collaboration with Alberta Environment to engage Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to get a chemical application to flowering rush. This multi-year project reduced the quantity and spread of flowering rush.
- ✓ Membership:
 - 2025 - 20
 - 2026 - 49

How did WQ² start?

- ✓ April to June 2025
 - Numerous complaints by residents to LSAC, our MLA and the Alberta Environment & Protected Areas (“EPA”) regarding water quality and water quantity
- ✓ June to July 2025
 - Initial meetings between Mayors of Municipalities of those respondents, EPA, and LSAC.
- ✓ August 2025
 - LILSA agreed to lead the effort of a Lake Mgmt Plan, which will include watershed, weir, and fish migration.
 - Letter to all Municipalities around Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne suggesting LILSA lead the approach
- ✓ September to November 2025
 - LILSA requested each Council to Endorsing the August Letter and to appoint a Steering Committee Members
- ✓ December 2025
 - First WQ² Meeting
 - Name: WQ² -Water Quality and Water Quantity

WQ² Endorsements

- ✓ Alberta Beach
- ✓ Lac Ste Anne County
- ✓ Lac Ste Anne Metis Community Association
- ✓ Parkland County
- ✓ SV of Castle Island
- ✓ SV of Ross Haven
- ✓ SV of Silver Sands
- ✓ SV of South View
- ✓ SV of Sunset Point
- ✓ SV of Val Quentin
- ✓ SV of Yellowstone
- ✓ SV of West Cove

Not Officially Endorsed

- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation

WQ² Steering Committee Members

Co Chairs: Bernie Poulin, Ray Hutschal

Alberta Beach: Debbie Durocher (elected official)

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation: Dr. Hughie Jones (volunteer)

Lac Ste. Anne County: Bo Knysh (elected official)

Lac Ste. Anne Metis Community Assoc: Tracy L. Friedel (volunteer)

SV of Castle Island: Pat Garvin (volunteer)

SV of Ross Haven: Michael Filipowich (volunteer)

SV of Silver Sands: Bernie Poulin (elected official)

SV of South View: Colleen Richardson (elected official)

SV of Sunset Point: Rodney Janz (volunteer)

SV of Val Quentin: Carolyn Jensen (volunteer)

SV of Yellowstone: Michael Clark (elected official)

SV of West Cove: Greg Woronuk (volunteer)

No Appointed Committee Member

- Parkland County

WQ² Progress

- ✓ Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members
- ✓ Goal Agreement
 - Ensure a shared vision and values, followed by the development of a comprehensive Lake Mgmt Plan for Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne, that will complement other watershed plans
- ✓ Steering Committee Survey and Collaboration
 - Get to know each other, understand personal objectives and views
- ✓ Engagement of Whitestone Industry Services Ltd. to find and apply for potential funding
- ✓ Agreement to use the “Workbook for Developing Lake Watershed Management Plans in Alberta” as the guideline to develop the Lake Mgmt Plan
- ✓ Schedule developed for progression to a Lake Mgmt Plan. **Target Date: Q1 2027**
- ✓ Alignment agreement with NSWA / SRWA / LILSA WQ²

Aspect of the WQ ² Project	NSWA (Watershed-Scale)	SRWA (Sub-watershed)	LILSA (Project Lead)
Role in this Project	Provides watershed-scale context and alignment (if needed)	Supports coordination and integration within the Sturgeon watershed	Leads and delivers the WQ2 project
Project Ownership	No ownership	No ownership	Full ownership
Decision-Making	No direct role in project decisions	Provides input where helpful; no decision authority	Responsible for all project decisions
Implementation	Not implementing this project	Not implementing this project (may support coordination)	Leads implementation and delivery
Municipal and Stakeholder Interface	Shares information at the NSR watershed scale (if required)	Shares information and coordinates engagement at the Sturgeon River Watershed scale for municipalities not on project team	Direct engagement on project-specific needs within the project area
Data & Outputs	Not directly involved	Helps connect outputs to sub-watershed context	Produces all project data and findings
Communication	May reference outcomes in watershed reporting	May help share and contextualize results	Leads communication of project results
Funding Role	Not directly involved	May help identify opportunities (if appropriate)	Leads funding and applications
Technical Advice / Direction	May provide NSR watershed-scale science, context, and technical insight	Provides a forum for technical input, review and interdisciplinary discussion	Leads technical analysis; considers external input as appropriate
Accountability	Not accountable for project outcomes	Not accountable for project outcomes	Fully accountable for outcomes and deliverables
Credibility Role	Provides broader scientific and planning context	Provides neutral forum and coordination credibility	Responsible for technical credibility of the project and regulatory processes
Relationship to Work	Context provider (e.g., how it fits basin-wide)	Connector (e.g., how it fits locally)	Doer (e.g., what is done)
Approach is perspectives differ	Engages where aligned with its watershed role; may step back where not aligned	Engages as a neutral coordinating forum; may step back to maintain neutrality and role clarity	Engages partners for input but retains decision-making authority and may proceed independently
Key Boundary	Does not influence project outcomes	Does not take ownership or appear to endorse	Maintains independence while engaging partners

Alignment with NSWA / SRWA / WQ²

Lake Mgmt Plan

Vision:

Lac Ste. Anne and Lake Isle are healthy, resilient lake ecosystems where natural watershed processes function sustainably, nutrient loading is minimized, and water quality supports abundant fish and wildlife, safe recreation, and vibrant community life. The lakes and their shorelands are stewarded collaboratively by residents, Indigenous communities, municipalities, and watershed partners, ensuring that environmental, cultural, social, and economic values are protected for future generations

Values:

We value Lac Ste. Anne and Lake Isle as places of deep cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance. We honour Indigenous knowledge and stewardship traditions, and we commit to collaborative, respectful management that protects water, wildlife, and community well-being now and into the future.

Lake Mgmt Plan

Guiding Principles:

The Committee will operate according to the following principles:

- A. Collaboration: Shared stewardship among municipalities, Indigenous communities, residents, and stakeholders
- B. Transparency: Open communication, accessible information, and documented decisions
- C. Evidence-based decision-making: Use of best available science and local knowledge
- D. Respect: Recognition of cultural, ecological, and community values
- E. Inclusivity: Engagement of all affected and interested parties
- F. Sustainability: Long-term protection of lake and watershed health

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 1: State of the Watershed Reporting

- Currently using “2017 State of the Watershed Report”.
- Inquiring with NSWA and SRWA regarding information to update this report.

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 2: Identifying Who Should be Involved

Group	Role	Members
Steering Committee (WQ ²)	Leads planning, writes plan, coordinates	LILSA WQ ² Committee - Includes representation from each Municipality, Counties, and groups around the two lakes.
Stakeholder Advisory Group	Provides input, reviews draft, supports implementation as required	Alberta Environment & Protected Areas, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Forestry and Parks, Alberta Lake Management Society, Ducks Unlimited, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage and others that are identified or express interest.
Technical Committee	Provides scientific and technical expertise	SRWA Technical Advisory Committee
Watershed Community	Provides local knowledge, values, and support	Residents, seasonal cabin owners, recreational users, local businesses, church organizations, and others that are identified or express interest.

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

1. Collaboration Approach

The planning process will follow a collaborative, consensus-based, watershed-wide approach, consistent with:

- A. All affected jurisdictions and communities participate meaningfully
- B. Indigenous governments are engaged as full partners
- C. Technical experts inform decisions
- D. Stakeholders and the public contribute throughout the process
- E. Transparency and trust guide all interactions

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

2. Expectations for Participation: All participants agree to:
 - A. Actively Engage
 - i. Attend meetings regularly
 - ii. Review materials in advance
 - iii. Participate constructively in discussions
 - iv. Bring forward the perspectives of their organization or community
 - B. Share Knowledge
 - i. Provide local knowledge, technical expertise, and relevant data
 - ii. Identify issues, opportunities, and constraints
 - iii. Support evidence-based decision-making
 - C. Respect Diverse Perspectives
 - i. Recognize the cultural significance of Lac Ste. Anne and Lake Isle
 - ii. Respect the needs of residents, recreation users, agriculture, and industry
 - iii. Value both scientific and traditional knowledge
 - D. Support Implementation
 - i. Commit to actions within their jurisdiction or capacity
 - ii. Help communicate the plan to their communities
 - iii. Participate in monitoring and adaptive management

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

3. Decision Making Process. For this plan:

- A. Primary Method: Consensus. Consensus means:
 - i. All participants can “live with” the decision
 - ii. Concerns are addressed through discussion
 - iii. Decisions reflect shared responsibility
- B. Fallback Method: Supermajority. If consensus cannot be reached:
 - i. A 75% supermajority of Steering Committee members may approve a decision
 - ii. Dissenting views will be documented
- C. Technical Decisions.
 - i. Technical Committee recommendations will be based on best available science
 - ii. Steering Committee will consider technical advice when making final decisions
- D. Advisory Input.
 - i. Stakeholder Advisory Group provides non-binding input
 - ii. All feedback is documented and considered

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

4. Communication and Information Sharing.

Effective communication is essential for trust and transparency.

A. Internal Communication

- i. Meeting agendas and materials distributed at least one week in advance
- ii. Minutes circulated within two weeks after meetings
- iii. Shared document repository for all committees

B. Between Committees

- i. Technical Committee provides written recommendations to Steering Committee
- ii. Stakeholder Advisory Group provides feedback summaries
- iii. Steering Committee communicates decisions and next steps to all groups via Meeting Minutes that are published on the website

C. Public Communication

- i. Project webpage with updates, documents, and meeting summaries
- ii. Public open houses and workshops at key milestones
- iii. Clear, accessible language for public materials

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

5. Conflict Resolution

Conflict is normal and must be managed constructively. The process to manage conflict:

- A. Identify the issue and perspectives involved
- B. Facilitate discussion to clarify interests
- C. Seek solutions that meet shared objectives
- D. Use consensus or supermajority decision-making
- E. Document unresolved concerns
- F. If needed, a neutral facilitator may be engaged.

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 3: Determine How Participants will Work Together

6. Commitment to Transparency

All participants agree to:

- A. Share information openly
- B. Document decisions and rationales
- C. Make non-confidential materials publicly available
- D. Ensure the planning process is understandable and accessible

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

1. Governance Structure

A. Steering Committee

i. Role

- Provides overall leadership and direction
- Approves major milestones, timelines, and deliverables
- Ensures alignment with municipal, provincial, and Indigenous priorities
- Oversees engagement, communications, and plan development
- Take information back to each of Steering Committees respective council
- Ensure Stakeholder Advisory Group and Watershed Community are informed

ii. Chairing

- Bernie Poulin and Ray Hutschal Co-Chairs

iii. Decision Making

- Consensus-based, with fallback to supermajority (75%) if needed
- Decisions documented in meeting minutes

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

Governance Structure (continued)

B. SRWA Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”)

i. Role

- Reviews data, modelling, and monitoring results
- Reviews and provides feedback on management actions based on evidence
- Advises if the plan is technically defensible

ii. Decision Making

- Consensus on technical recommendations with fallback to supermajority (75%) if needed
- Provides written summaries to Steering Committee

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

Governance Structure (continued)

C. Stakeholder Advisory Group - includes Government Agencies

i. Role

- Represents the full range of lake users and interests
- Reviews draft materials and provides feedback
- Helps identify issues, opportunities, and acceptable trade offs
- Supports community buy in and implementation
- Ensure legislation is adhered to

ii. Decision Making

- Advisory only. Provides input to Steering Committee
- Feedback documented and publicly summarized.

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

2. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Steering Committee

- i. Approves Terms of Reference (Steps 3 and 4)
- ii. Sets vision, values, outcomes, and priorities
- iii. Approves the final plan
- iv. Oversees the implementation and monitoring
- v. Ensures transparency and communication with the public

B. Technical Committee

- i. Reviews watershed assessments
- ii. Identifies indicators, targets, and thresholds
- iii. Evaluates management options
- iv. Advises on feasibility and cost-effectiveness

C. Stakeholder Advisory Group

- i. Identifies community concerns and opportunities
- ii. Provides local knowledge and lived experience
- iii. Helps shape acceptable and realistic actions
- iv. Supports outreach and education

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

3. Communication Pathways

- A. Technical Committee → Steering Committee
 - i. Written technical memos, presentations, and recommendations.
- B. Stakeholder Advisory Group → Steering Committee
 - i. Summaries of feedback, concerns, and community perspectives.
- C. Steering Committee → Public (includes Technical Committee, Stakeholder Advisory Group, and Watershed Community)
 - i. Website updates
 - ii. Open houses
 - iii. Social media

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

4. Meeting Frequency

- A. Steering Committee
 - i. Two Times Monthly during plan development; quarterly afterward
- B. Technical Committee
 - i. Quarterly
- C. Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - A. At key milestones (2-3 times per year)

Lake Mgmt Plan

Step 4: Establish the Structure under Which Participants will Contribute

5. Administrative Support

- A. Lac Ste. Anne County
- B. LILSA
- C. NSWA and SRWA
- D. ALMS

Lake Mgmt Plan

Planned Activities

- Schedule for Steps 5 to 16 will be finalized once we have funding.

ID	 Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	% Complete	Start	Finish
1		LILSA WQ2 Lake Mgmt Plan + Water Control Structure / Fish Passage Construction		0%		
2		Revised: June 2, 2026		0%		
3		Committee Formation	38 days	100%	2025-08-06	2025-09-26
10		Stakeholder Register	53 days	40%	2026-04-06	2026-06-17
22		Information Collection and Sharing	220 days	50%	2025-09-29	2026-07-31
28		Lake Management Plan - Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne		4%	2025-07-29	2029-07-04
29		Develop Initial Vision	23 days	100%	2026-04-06	2026-05-06
30		Step 1: State of the Watershed Reporting	23 days	100%	2026-04-06	2026-05-06
31		Step 2: Identify who should be involved	23 days	100%	2026-05-06	2026-06-05
32		Step 3: Determine who Participants will Work Together	23 days	100%	2026-05-06	2026-06-05
33		Step 4: Establish the Structure under which Participants will Contribute	27 days	25%	2026-06-08	2026-07-14
34		Presentations to Stakeholder Advisory Groups 1	27 days	25%	2026-06-08	2026-07-14
35		Prepare Presentations	7 days	100%	2026-06-08	2026-06-16
36		Presentations to Councils and Stakeholder Advisory Groups	20 days	0%	2026-06-17	2026-07-14
37		Info back to WQ2	1 day	0%	2026-07-07	2026-07-07
38		Step 5: Identify and Prioritize Issues and Opportunities through Stakeholder Engagement				
39		Step 6: Preparing and Confirming Support for the Terms of Reference				
40		Step 7: Develop an Engagement Strategy				
41		Step 8: Identifying Outcomes, Objectives, and Indicators				
42		Step 9: Developing, evaluating, and Selecting Mgmt Actions				
43		Address Water Control Structure, Fish Passage Structure, Beaver Dams				
44		Presentations to Stakeholder Advisory Groups 2				
48		Step 10: Drafting and Confirming Support for the Plan				
56		Step 11: Implement the Plan				
57		Step 12: Establish the Implementation Committee				
58		Step 13: Implementing the Plan				
77		Step 14: Monitoring the Plan				
78		Step 15: Reporting on Implementation and Outcomes				
79		Step 16: Adapting the plan to new info				

Lake Mgmt Plan

Municipalities - What do we need from you?

1. Communication to your residents; feedback from your council
 - a) Posting this presentation on your website / social media
 - b) Stay tuned for future updates
2. Letters of support for Grant Applications
3. Matching financial or in-kind grant potential
4. Administrative Support