

ANNUAL REPORT 2016
REDBERRY LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION INC.

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Projects:

A Neighbourhood Approach To Habitat Conservation

Proposal under review for Habitat Stewardship Protection funding (federal)

This project will see the RLBR working with the Saskatchewan Provincial Lands Branch to acquire a conservation agreement which enable us to protect and manage all vacant crown lands on the southwest and northeast quadrants of Redberry Lake. Identify land owners who have crown land leases with Saskatchewan Provincial Lands Branch on the southwest and northeast quadrants of Redberry Lake, and establish conservation management agreements which will help conserve and manage environmentally sensitive land. Identify and work with property owners adjacent to all crown lands on the southwest and northeast quadrants of Redberry Lake and establish agreements which will help conserve and manage environmentally sensitive land.

Proposal under review for Fish & Wildlife Development Fund grant

This multi-year project will take place on crown and private lands around Redberry Lake and contribute to the conservation of multiple game, waterfowl and upland bird species through the conservation, management and restoration of important wildlife breeding and foraging habitat and the reduction of human-induced wildlife mortality through agricultural production.

Important habitat for the target species is secured by:

- a) Negotiating an agreement with the Provincial Government that will result in the special designation of vacant crown lands, along with a transfer of authority to manage and conserve those lands
- b) Negotiating conservation agreements with private landowners which will allow traditional land use activities (such as grazing, fencing, hunting) while restricting activities that may jeopardize the integrity of the ecosystem (such as cultivation, introduction of noxious weeds, commercial development).
- c) Potential threats to wildlife will be detected by comparing population monitoring data with baseline data to identify management actions outlined in a management plan.
- d) Beneficial agricultural management practices will be implemented to mitigate and ideally reverse negative impacts on wildlife habitat.

Community Connections:

As part of our formal partnership with the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, we held our first annual fall event that showcases the partnership with SENS and our volunteer farmers from the area. These producers have agreed to work with Grad Students from SENS to further their understanding of the different types of farming in the biosphere reserve. For their time spent with the students, producers receive a report prepared by the students in regards to environmental issues of concern on their farms such as water quality and land management. These areas of concern will be monitored into the future to see if environmental issues are improving or not. Students presented on their farm visits and were very grateful for having the opportunity to learn about farming in the area. As well as the student presentations there was a trade show component that involved local business people involved with farming, being able to promote their businesses. We feel that local people should be recognized for what they do to support agriculture.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

We have initiated contact with Dr. David Halstead of Saskatchewan Polytechnic in regards to students coming to the biosphere reserve to do research projects, similar to our agreement with the SENS.

P.A. Model Forest and ILEK Project

The Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge (ILEK) Project of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan, has accumulated lessons from various cases around the world, analyzing the mechanisms of ILEK-driven adaptive governance. One on-going activity of the ILEK Project is to work together with partner organizations to host workshops in several locations in the world to discuss society-science interactions. We propose a workshop be organized in Saskatchewan, where participants with diverse interests will be engaged in

deliberative discussion as to how society and science can collaborate and address social-ecological issues faced by local communities.

Social Enterprise Project

We are continuing our follow up with the Innoweave grant and have resubmitted our application to the McConnell Foundation. They have come back with a series of questions that need answers for us to proceed. Will be doing so in the next week.

Striking Balance

We have finished submitting information to the Striking Balance film crew and are looking forward for fall when there will be a Film Premiere event held in Hafford showcasing the film production. Associated with this, Dr. Maureen Reed (Uof S, SENS) and Peter Kingsmill (RLBR Chair) are collaborating with Yvonne Drebert (Striking Balance Producer) to write and publish a book about Canada's Biosphere Reserves, which is also expected to be launched in late 2016.

Redberry Lake Trail Association (RLTA)

Although not a formal working group of the biosphere reserve, we are pleased to report that the RLTA has been active in developing and maintaining the first sector of the perimeter trail around the lake. The association is made up of seasonal and full-time residents of the biosphere reserve and has been able to obtain donations (and a modicum of funding from the Mountain Equipment Co-op) to assist with trail development and the purchase of a self-propelled trail maintainer.

New Membership Bylaw

The Board of Governors have passed a new membership bylaw which opens three "Member-at-Large" positions on the board, as well as giving member municipalities more flexibility in their choice of representatives.

Staff Matters (really!)

The Board has been very fortunate over the last three years to have willing volunteers who continue to help with the management of the organization. We congratulate Susanne Abe, who has taken a full-time position as communications officer for the City of North Battleford, and we are incredibly pleased that she and Thomas and their son continue to make our community their home; Thomas has taken over much of Susanne's work for the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council at its office in Hafford, and continues to volunteer to help the RLBR with book-keeping and communications.

And, of course, John Kindrachuk continues to carry the RLBR banner, volunteering as Executive Director. Without the commitment of John, Thomas and Susanne we simply would not have a functioning organization.

Notable Events:

- Land Based Learning Chitek Lake (with NSRBC)
- CWRA Flood Workshop Presentation (with NSRBC)
- Attended PCAP Legislature Reception (with NSRBC)
- Hosted a Tourism Sask FAM Tour in the Biosphere Reserve
- Hosted Nature Saskatchewan Annual Fall Conference field day in September
- Hosted AIS Workshops in Saskatoon and Regina in February 2015 (with PWWG)
- Hosted UAV Seminar in February 2016 (with PWWG)
- Hosted SENS Community Connections event in Hafford

Formal Agreements:

- North Saskatchewan River Basin Council administration agreement
- MOU with University of Saskatchewan with regard to its graduate School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS). [See Appendix A](#)
- MOU with Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge project (run by Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan)
- MOU (marketing and cooperation) with the Rhoen Biosphere Reserve (Germany)

Prairie Waters Working Group Association Inc. (PWWG)

The PWWG is a Non-Profit Corporation established in 2013, and was established to serve the environmental science and biodiversity monitoring functions of the Biosphere Reserve, with special regard to wetlands, lakes and riparian areas. It operates from the Biosphere Reserve office and field station. The organization's website is [HERE](#)

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Regional Planning District

The Planning District is the outcome of the development of municipal "Official Community Plans" and a "Regional District Plan" approved by the Province of Saskatchewan in early 2015.

The Planning District includes the following municipalities:

Hafford	Speers
Meeting Lake (RM)	Douglas (RM)
Borden	Maymont
Great Bend (RM)	Radisson

It is expected that the Planning District will be set up as a municipally-owned not-for-profit corporation in 2016.

Redberry Lake Waters Development Corporation (RLWDC)

The RLWDC is a for-profit corporation established in 2015 to manage commercial development of - and on - the waters of Redberry Lake. The underlying principles of this organization will be a profit-sharing agreement with the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve and a commitment to environmental sustainability and community consultation. There is currently only one founding director, and there are no current activities.

Redberry Watershed Consultancy (Registered) (RWC)

The RWC is a privately owned for-profit registered business; John Kindrachuk is president of the business, and he and Peter Kingsmill are Lead Consultants. Five percent of the gross revenues of the RWC are diverted to assist the core functions of the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve.

This report is submitted on behalf of
The Board of Governors, in March 2016
Peter Kingsmill (Chair)
John Kindrachuk (Executive Director)