



Oldman Watershed Council
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His Worship Brad Schlossberger
Town of Claresholm
PO Box 1000
Claresholm AB T0L0T0

Dear Mayor Schlossberger and Council,

October 2, 2024

Thank you for your on-going support of the Oldman Watershed Council (OWC). Your contributions are essential to our mission of safeguarding the health and sustainability of our watershed—a mission that directly influences the economic prosperity, environmental resilience, and quality of life in our region. As we look ahead, we're asking for your continued partnership to help us tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities before us.

Your municipality plays a critical role in our efforts. With 3 dedicated municipal seats on our 19-member Board, including 1 for Towns and Villages, 1 for Municipal Districts and Counties, and 1 for the City of Lethbridge, your voice is integral to the work we do. Together, we ensure that all perspectives within the watershed are considered, fostering a collaborative approach to watershed management.

Over the past year, despite the ongoing challenges of drought, we've achieved significant milestones with your support:

- **Drought Response:** We launched ABWater.ca and hosted a drought resilience workshop, enhancing drought management knowledge by 90% among 110 participants from 36 municipalities and one First Nation.
- **Restoration:** Nearly 5,000 willows were planted across 20 sites, improving water storage and quality. We worked closely with 16 landholders, including five new collaborators.
- **Economic Impact:** Our efforts from 2009 to 2022 contributed \$8.3 million to the region's GDP and created 167 job years, highlighting the economic benefits of our environmental work.
- **Community Engagement:** We engaged 3,656 residents, including 1,566 youth, through innovative programs such as virtual reality experiences. Ninety-three percent of participants left feeling more hopeful about the environment and their role in its protection.
- **Partnerships:** Our network grew to 122 partners across Southern Alberta, significantly amplifying our collective impact.

As we move forward, we are requesting your municipality's continued support for the fiscal year of April 2024 to March 2025. A contribution of 49¢ per resident—totaling \$1,864 for 3804 residents—will directly support our ongoing efforts to educate the public, restore vital habitats, and uphold our role as an impartial and trusted voice in watershed management.

We encourage you to review our 2023-24 annual report, which showcases the impact of your contributions through compelling stories, images, and project highlights. If you would like to arrange a presentation or discuss further collaboration opportunities, please reach out to our Executive Director, Shannon Frank, at shannon@oldmanwatershed.ca or 403-317-1328.

Your support truly makes a difference. Together, we can continue to protect and enhance the Oldman Watershed, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for all.

Warm regards,

Doug Kaupp, OWC Chair and Water and Wastewater Special Project Manager, City of Lethbridge