

Oldman Watershed Council's 2010 Annual General Meeting



The Oldman Watershed Council hosted its 6th Annual General Meeting on April 22nd in Lethbridge at the new Coast Hotel. OWC Chair Terry Kerkhoff welcomed approximately 100 people to the event. Our Treasurer, Sean Robison gave the financial report, which was followed by the team reports. Four teams reported on the progress that they have made and the projects that they are undertaking. Thanks to the team chairs for these excellent presentations. For more information on what the working teams are up to, visit our website www.oldmanbasin.org.

This AGM marked a very special milestone for the OWC. The Council rolled out its State of the Watershed (SOW) Report. SOW Team Chairs Shane Petry and Stephanie Palechek gave a short introduction of the project and its significance to the OWC and then turned the floor over to AMEC to provide a more in-depth presentation of the results. A wine and cheese reception followed, giving attendees an opportunity to network and engage in more discussion with Board members, OWC volunteers, and AMEC.

Welcome to new Board Members-Rodney Cyr-Member at Large, Richard Burke-Environmental NGO, Robert Rippin-Health and returning Board member Anne Stevick.

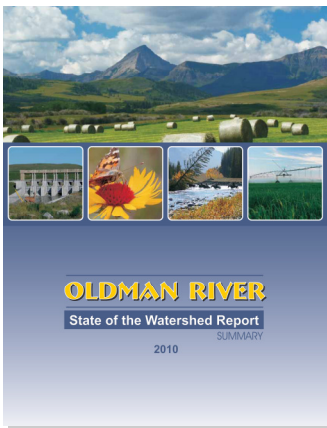
A big thank you and farewell to our outgoing Board members-Sean Robison-Health, Don Watson-Environmental NGO, Glen French-Member at Large.

The 2010/11 Board of Directors are:

- Andrea Kalischuk
- Andrew Hurly (Vice-chair)
- Anne Stevick
- Bill Dolan
- Bruce Konynenbelt
- Cheryl Fujikawa
- Gerhardt Hartman
- Jeff Carlson
- Keith Francis
- Randall Wolf Tail
- Reed Davis
- Richard Burke
- Robert Rippin
- Rodney Cyr
- Shane Petry
- Terry Kerkhoff (Chair)

The State of the Watershed Report is here!!!

By Stephanie Palechek



After a few years of hard work and tireless effort from Council volunteers and staff, the OWC is pleased to announce that our State of the Watershed (SOW) Report is complete. The report, prepared by consulting firm AMEC Environmental, evaluates 4 sub-basins in the watershed plus the mainstem of the Oldman River. The report is a key to our understanding of the current condition of the watershed, the challenges we face, and how the decisions that we make today will have an impact on this landscape tomorrow. The SOW report is an important component of a larger effort, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). In addition to the SOW report, the Council completed a planning Vision for the IWMP which surveyed residents and stakeholders within the watershed and asked these participants what they would like their watershed to look like in the future, what some of the barriers are, and how the OWC can help

people move towards their vision of a healthy watershed. 37 individuals completed face to face surveys, 115 participated in workshops and over 200 participated in the online survey and questionnaire. Using the scientific information from the SOW report and the responses provided by residents and stakeholders, we now have a solid base to begin our Integrated Watershed Management Plan.