

Preparing a Vision for the Oldman Watershed

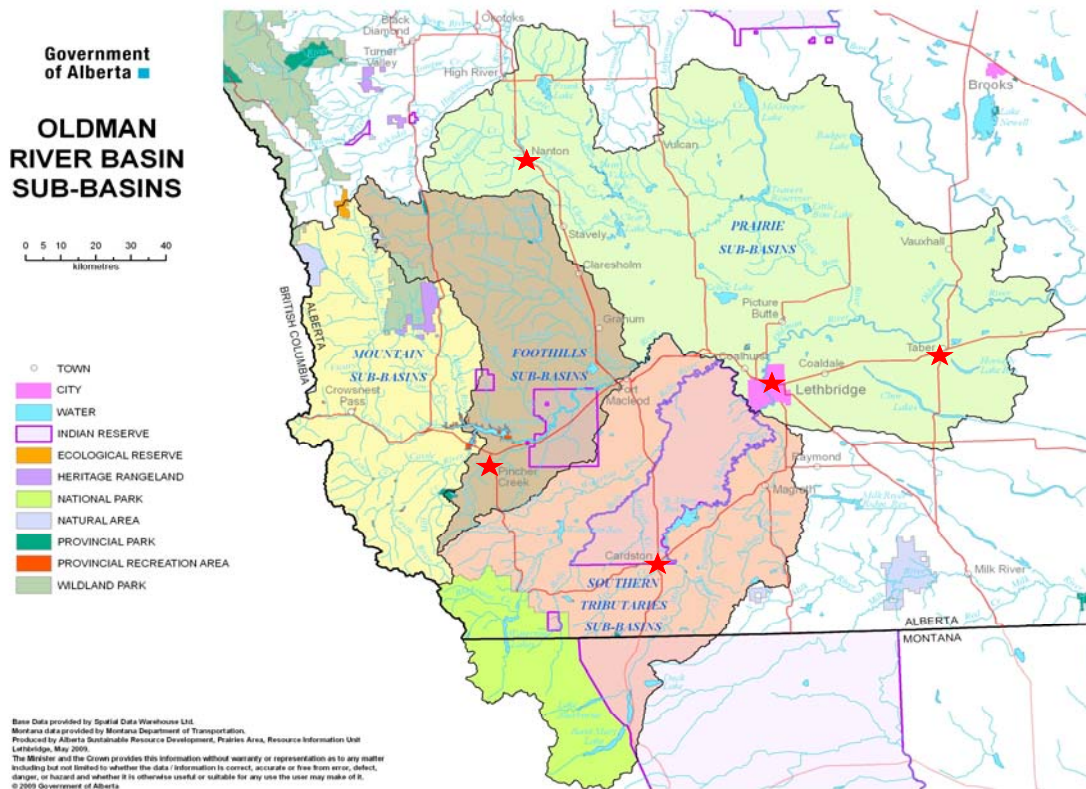
Creating a Vision Survey Results

VISIONING

The following information summarizes the raw data from the survey conducted in the Oldman Watershed from October 26—November 6, 2009. This information will be used by the Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team, and the consultants, to develop Vision Outcomes/Statements in the process to develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

The vision outcomes will be reviewed and finalized after the community workshops being held in Cardston, Taber, Pincher Creek, Lethbridge and Nanton in late November and early December. Separate sessions will be held on the Kainai/Blood and Piikani/Peigan First Nations early in 2010 and will be incorporated into these results.

Thank-you to the 155 respondents for taking the time to complete the survey.



Please specify which sub-basin you live in.

Mountain sub-basin	13%	19
Foothills sub-basin	8%	13
Southern Tributaries sub-basin	8%	13
Prairie sub-basin	57%	88
Other, please specify	14%	22
Totals	100%	155

****All numbers listed below are in percentage.**

	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 7 statements based on the following topic: Watershed Health				
A sustainable watershed for future generations	96	3	1	0
A watershed that is resilient, so people, businesses, wildlife and habitats persist in the face of weather and climate extremes	82	16	0	2
A healthy watershed	92	6	1	1
Clean water, air and land	92	7	1	0
A watershed that is in the same condition it is in today	16	25	38	21
A watershed in improved condition compared to what it is today	73	21	5	1
A watershed in condition as it was in the past (30-100 years ago)	26	37	24	13
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 6 statements based on the following topic: Water Quality				
	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Good quality water for future generations	93	5	1	1
Water quality maintained as it is today	16	29	39	16
Water quality improved compared to what it is today	76	20	4	0
Clean water for drinking	93	7	0	0
Clean water for ecosystems	89	9	2	0
Clean groundwater	90	9	1	0

****All numbers listed below are in percentage.**

	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 10 statements based on the following topic: Water Quantity/Flow				
Constant river flows maintained for consumptive (economic) use	19	35	28	18
More natural river flows for improved ecosystem health	65	26	8	1
Same amount of river flow as there is today	15	36	35	14
Stable river flows in summer	34	36	25	5
Flushing flows to remove siltation below dam	36	40	18	6
Flooding for cottonwood stands to regenerate	57	33	9	1
Higher river flows in summer and fall	14	41	34	11
Aquifers managed sustainably so they are replenished, not mined	77	22	1	0
Water for Life outcomes: safe, secure, water supply for a stable economy and healthy aquatic ecosystems.	80	18	1	1
Sufficient flows for boating throughout the season	6	22	44	28
	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 10 statements based on the following topic: Ecosystem Health				
Abundant and biologically diverse ecosystems	79	17	3	1
Healthy aquatic ecosystems	85	14	0	1
Healthy riparian areas	86	13	0	1
Riparian areas protected	81	14	4	1
Damaged riparian areas restored	77	19	3	1
Protected areas for medicinal plants	43	39	15	3
Fenced-off rivers	28	26	27	19
Improved native fish populations	65	28	6	1
Healthy fish populations	78	20	1	1
Fewer invasive species	76	20	4	0

****All numbers listed below are in percentage.**

	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 11 statements based on the following topic: Water Allocation/Use				
Water allocations balanced between humans and the ecosystem	46	42	9	3
Enough water for everyone	32	43	18	7
More water for the ecosystem	58	24	16	2
Less water for the ecosystem	1	11	35	53
More water allocated for human/economic use	7	21	41	31
Water for irrigation	19	41	25	15
Enough water for water-based recreation	6	45	33	16
More efficient water use	85	13	1	1
Reduced agricultural demand for water	42	35	14	9
Reduced urban demand for water	51	34	12	3
Reduced industrial demand for water	52	33	12	3
	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 20 statements based on the following topic: Land Use				
Slow population growth	38	36	21	5
Population growth at sustainable levels	55	35	8	2
Growth that improves watershed function	54	37	6	3
Land should be managed for multiple users (industrial, agricultural, recreational, etc.)	41	43	13	3
Agricultural land maintained	47	39	11	3
Irrigated farming maintained	32	41	21	6
Ranching maintained	56	36	5	3
Less intense agriculture	40	34	17	9
Less urban sprawl (subdivisions & acreages)	74	17	7	2
Lower road density	53	30	13	4
Less evidence of human activity	56	28	12	4
No Oldman Dam	17	11	31	41
No commercial timber harvesting	19	19	46	16
Reforested headwaters	68	29	2	1
Less oil and gas development	36	34	22	8
Headwaters with less off-road vehicle damage	79	17	4	0
Restricted development along waterways	74	21	4	1
Well planned development with minimum impacts	83	16	1	0
Protected headwaters	77	19	3	1
More native grasslands	64	25	11	0

****All numbers listed below are in percentage.**

	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the next 9 statements based on the following topic: Recreation, Landscape & Ecotourism				
Natural landscapes	74	23	3	0
Green, luscious, beautiful countryside	34	41	19	6
Historic viewsapes (ranches, wide open views, undeveloped rivers)	52	40	6	2
Sustained river valleys with public access	49	41	9	1
Good access to waterways for recreation (swimming, boating, fishing, etc.)	28	45	22	5
Recreational activities maintained in headwaters	12	42	32	14
Blue ribbon trout stream	39	45	12	4
Fewer RVs along forestry trunk road	49	30	14	7
Youth-based ecotourism in historically significant areas	36	48	13	3
	Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree
Please rate your level of agreement on the statement based on the following topic: Attitudes				
Environmentally responsible and motivated watershed residents	72	14	4	0

Question 10: For additional comments on any of the topics above, please indicate in the space provided below and clearly indicate the topic.

**** Comments were not edited and were directly quoted from survey.**

- In some instances, I haven't been able to provide an answer. For example, how is a stable river flow maintained? what is a flushing flow?
- Strange survey
- Some of your statements regarding a topic are so cryptic that I was not sure what was meant.
- Some of the questions should have included a "don't Know". "Clean water for ecosystems is confusing-- ecosystems clean water as a function of there existance
- Man surely can learn to work with nature to his benefit while improving nature. Rape and pillage must stop but that doesn't mean there can't be sustainable use of all of nature's renewal resources. Sacrifice will become more important for all users to some degree.To make sure that happens, a powerful regulatory body will be needed to hold man to the ideals of resource use, and still penalties will be needed for those who don't hold to the demands of the majority.
- No one user group or non-user group should have more rights to access and use of water or lands. The challenge is to allow everyone their access but to not over tax the watershed.
- Maintain agricultural land as is now but do not increase it at the expense of public land, especially on this semi-arid desert. No more turning native grass to potatoes, please.
- "Higher river flows in summer and fall" - What does this mean? Higher than now, or higher than natural?
- Effluent from feedlots should be more strictly enforced to help keep healthy streams. Air quality from these operations should also be upgraded. Unrestricted use of off road vehicles should cease in most wilderness areas. Also should enforce highly reduced noise from these vehicles. Minimum flows in watercouses should be higher by reducing agriculture diversion.

Question 10 CONTINUED:

- It is not clear that much forward vision or scientifically-based ideas are part of the current water plan. There seems to be too much vested interest both on the environmental and commercial side of the plan, rather than looking at anticipated change that will occur in the future whether we like it or not and planning for "balanced" change within the system that will support urban, agricultural and industrial development within the area.
- The resolution of the area map is poor. Should also add an option "Not sure what this means". For example, what is the definition of a "blue ribbon trout stream"?
- Help producer to improve irrigation efficiency. Pipelines, automated systems etc.
- The main objective should be to improve and sustain the health of the watershed. Water is essential to the future of life in the Oldman basin and we cannot have it all in terms of how we use this area. the health of the area comes before all the many activities we might like to engage in. this includes irrigation increases, more industries that impact the system and a range of destructive recreational activities. We cannot have it all.
- We need to encourage more water efficient agronomic practices and encourage producers to use crops with high water use efficiencies.
- Ban those awful all-terrain vehicles and stop the logging! Let the land return to nature wherever remotely possible... and tell Waterton Lakes to stop the controlled burns. Let nature decide what it wants to do with current conditions. Land back to nature! Intense, vertical urban development + real nature everywhere else please!
- Fewer RVs on the forestry truck road, I don't think it is the RVs that are the problem it is the activities that these people do that it harmful ei. quadding through streams, making new trails etc.
- What does that mean in 9? Do I agree they exist or do I want them? Who would disagree to half the statements anyways? Why not have some questions like: would you rather a) industry or b) environment or like: Is irrigation more important than recreation. The vision is already "a sustainable watershed blah blah blah". How about some qualitative input from members regarding true desired outcomes?
- Topic: Attitudes Could have some more questions about attitudes toward everyday personal proactive commitments and about necessary compromise for everyday environmental responsibility.
- priority should be to protect ecosystem services of riparian areas
- The statements are too vague. I have decided not to complete survey as I dont know what I am commenting on.
- #8, second question: I don't think of our "natural" countryside as green and luscious so I assumed you meant it was irrigated relentlessly.
- In terms of importance, I believe that sustainable and healthy ecosystems and human drinking water are both critical pieces to consider, with responsible economic development second and recreation last.
- Some of these statements reflect a lack of understanding of our watershed. For example - reforested headwaters. If people think they're deforested they're sorely mistaken. Also some of the topics are more 'feel good' ideas than attainable goals. For example, population growth at sustainable levels. This is a nice idea but in reality unattainable given the propensity of cities to want to grow to increase their tax base.

Question 10 CONTINUED:

- Topic Land Use: I do not believe that the words "Sustainable" and "Growth" should ever be used together. We hear this catch phrase ("Sustainable Growth") all too often and it is time that we recognize that "growth" means there will be greater depletion of natural resources at a faster rate whether or not it is done in a "sustainable" way. Growth means more land will be used, more water consumed, more natural habitat destroyed. Sustainability implies limiting/decreasing growth, but no politicians (and perhaps the public too) are willing to talk about this policy idea. In fact, all sectors in our province still advocate growth and expansion, whether it be Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Municipalities, etc.
- Protection of our headwaters is a critical issue in my mind. We also need to try and hold back waters at sources more to keep a more balanced flow through the drier seasons.
- Naturally, we all want healthy happy ecosystems everywhere in the watershed. How will the trade-offs be made? Who decides?
- The survey was pretty good but the statements left a lot to interpretation. The biggest issue is over-consumptive use of our rivers, mismanaged flows below the dams, and extensive overuse of public lands especially in the headwaters, as well as loss of native prairie.
- Some of the answers come off as either/or. That would not be my answer. The question may not elicit any response or may be far more nuanced. On balance I want more protection for watersheds, more sustainable lifestyles and people doing appropriate forms of recreation in and around the watershed, including headwaters. I don't want them doing non-sustainable, inappropriate activities, e.g. off-trail motorized use.
- yes we all need to protect our land.
- Activity, development, recreation and water use, needs to be Managed, NOT allowed or not allowed. That means a win-win situation where developers and recreational users can still have what they want but only if it is managed in an environmentally sustainable manner. Developers can still sell "lakefront property" but it is 100m back from the water and with proper septic etc. Rec users can still quad/dirtbike/snowmobile but they need to be certified in a course (profits go to building trails) educating riders what is environmental and not and the trails must follow recommendations set out by "National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)" for sustainable trails and trails are shut down when it is too muddy. Random camping in designated areas away from waterbodies. Have septic dumping stations in well thought out areas. Everyone can win but managers need to THINK not just shut people out. People are going to do what they want, managers need to persuade them to do what is right and sustainable.
- Some of the statements are not succinct. How can you create more native grassland? We have an opportunity to maintain grasslands and create additional grasslands, but the creation of grassland will not be NATURAL. Also, natural landscapes in a semi-arid watershed are not always lush and green. Besides, what is natural...the era the buffalo roamed? Or, prior to that?
- In section 4, the Water for Life goal is actually "reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy". Sustainable is quite different from 'stable' - stable involves steady economic growth using traditional GDP measures, sustainable is meeting the needs of the present, with special attention to the basic needs of the poorest of us, without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Our goal should be a sustainable economy to meet the neglected W4L goal of healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- I frequently recreate in this area which includes Hunting, Fishing, OHV. It seems that watershed problems are from a lack of management (and recognition) of a standard OHV trail network that provides both access and entertainment. If the goal of the watershed planning is simply to reduce the activity in this area then I am very opposed to such a plan. Why not focus instead on creating sustainable trail access that avoids areas of concern instead of restricting access to a whole area.

Question 10 CONTINUED:

- My biggest concern is that the riparian area be left to natural undulations and changes with no hardsurfacing of paths, roads, parking lots and no lawns, golf courses within a very generous set-back, much broader than the high water level. The next biggest concern is that chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers be used in such a way that they cannot be detected in the water. If that means not use them at all, so be it.
- We need to get rid of random camping, quading and bike trails that cross streams and increase siltation of redds and put more money into enforcement.
- Land Use - less urban sprawl. The only valid reason for living on agricultural land instead of in communities is to engage in productive agricultural activities. That does not include llama and barn cat husbandry.
- Key priority should be to protect the headwaters and the mountain-prairie front; also control exotic species and noxious weeds; promote Cowboy Trail and geotourism to support diverse economy
- The Oldman watershed needs to be managed in a more natural state, with less damage from irrigation, agriculture, recreation, and industrial development (logging, oil & gas, grazing).
- attitudes-I hope you are magic, and can replace the lost glaciers, or we don't need to worry about our watershed. it will be non-existent.
- was a good test
- Urban Sprawl: It is critical, I think, that agricultural land--particularly irrigated agricultural land--be preserved throughout our southern region. Rural municipalities are under increasing pressure to subdivide. This subdivision needs to be tightly controlled and restricted to areas immediately adjacent to existing urban municipal infrastructure. This bears significantly on our sustainability as well as on a wide range of water issues in my view.
- I'll let this wise man articulate my thoughts: "The health of land and water - and the woods, which are the keepers of water - can be the only lasting basis for any civilization's survival and success. --- Ronal Wright; An Illustrated Short History of Progress
- Multiple Use - right now it's really multiple abuse. Do everything, everywhere, all the time. We need to limit some uses in some areas.
- We need to assure human activities and the ecosystem are both sustainable for future generations.
- In a number of places I wanted to add "but", or "only if"...
- Land Use - Maintaining and enhancing the riparian areas in the head waters becomes more the responsibility of the land owner and at the same time more economically ownerous. The land owner is usually being as responsible as economically possible while at the same time recreational users in the crown land act and use the land without responsibility and few if any rules or consequences. It would seem like a good time to put some rules on recreation use and possibly some economic incentives in place for land owners.
- i think we need to be very cautious when it comes to recreational use and development. i am against all of the subdivision taking place and all of the recreational use on waterways intended for agriculture use, human consumption, and environmental habitats.
- A bit to late on the Oldman Dam or should be referred to as The Three Rivers Dam? Youth-based ecotourism...do you mean the one on the Oldman River across from the Beehive Natural Area? It is a shame to have that camp site there, in a beautiful area - be so harmful to the environment - high horse impact! do not need others like that. Camp sites for youth groups can be anywhere, if the activities are great and fun. Irrigation methods probably need to be improved in the provence, over use of water. What is the true cost to the environment! Are we selling our water to cheaply? Invasive plants along all the Oldman watershed is mind boggling...blueweed the biggest offender.

Question 10 CONTINUED:

- Recreation in headwaters. The question is too general. I support low-impact recreation but not high-impact recreation. Irrigation. I do not want to stop irrigation but I would like to see less water diverted for irrigation and have that water retained to support aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Some of this can be achieved by higher efficiency and better choice of crops.
- 4. "water for life outcomes" are laudable but clearly not possible until we accept that there are limits to sustainable growth. Current policies appear to ignore this reality. 6. "balanced" should mean that "in-stream flow needs" are equal to human/economic needs - a principle that is not violated. Decreasing overall human/economic use by significantly increasing the efficiency of water use in Ag and industry should be a priority focus. 7. Based on the recognized and accepted fact that the south constitutes a distinct ecoregion, it is not realistic/reasonable to expect that multiple land use options should necessarily be an expected outcome i.e. difficult but science/stewardship-based choices should be made. There may well have to be "losers and winners".
- In the coming years there will be less water so we had better plan now.
- While surveys, policy making & communications are important, I would like to see the OWC direct efforts and resources towards enabling tangible projects at a community level.
- Water Quantity/Flow - not providing water in rivers for boaters. Water Allocation/Use - Enough water for everyone: No guarantee this will happen in the future Water Allocation/Use - More water allocated for human economic use:too much water being wasted Land Use - No Oldman Dam: need more dams Land Use - Reforested Headwaters: turn more into grassland
- A watershed in improved condition compared to what it is today - or perhaps even in better condition Would like to see better was quality. More water flowing to Sask than is needed. Good access to waterways for recreation - as long as they are not allowed on private property without permission

Question 11: Please provide any additional comments, thoughts or suggestions about this visioning process or watershed management planning in the space provided below.

**** Comments were not edited and were directly quoted from survey.**

- Maintain good river habitat. But we do live here and rivers should only be expected to be natural when every other aspect of the environment is natural, meaning when no one lives here.
- I believe that if all grassland pastures is managed to maintain healthy (defined according to Alberta's range guide) the water tables will be higher given the rainfall of a particular year that if they are managed for lower health values. Given proper incentives land managers will manage for health. understanding the need for a land ethic was what was required for me to start managin our entire reanch for such range health. This somehow should be included in your watershed plan.
- Glad to see the process continuing! Visioning needs to include a broad segment of southern albertans-- broad ownership of the outcome and the impacts of the visioning process is important. The move from vision to action needs local support because the province can't/won't fund much for the next few years.
- Vision is more than an ideal when it comes to the environment and nature's resources. It is essential when man has brought it to the brink of collapse in many parts of the world, and especially in Canada where there is still time to manage it, work with it and find ways to make it sustainable forever. Balanced approach to the watershed. Trying to involve and respect the players in the watershed, but do so in a manner that is sustainable and environmentally responsible.

Question 11 CONTINUED:

- Follow Provincial Water Strategy.
- Please maintain all user groups involvement.
- Use photographs of healthy native land vs all-terrain vehicular damage; native grass vs a photo of monoculture being sprayed by pesticides; leks for s.t. grouse vs a potato field.
- This is a valuable excise. Most Albertans realize and cherish the landscapes and natural heritage we have especially the young. I am sure we all feel somewhat guilty as it diminishes in quantity and quality.
- Better information needs to be available on historical, current and projected changes within the watershed to produce an informed plan on what we should plan. Many of the current groups involved in the planning process lack credibility in that they have focussed on protecting their own turf rather than looking at what is possible or likely to occur and working for the benefit of all concerned to ensure that the watershed that all user groups adapt for the changes that will come within the watershed in the future. The current advisory structure was set up to provide government with information to make decisions. It was not set up to abrogate responsibility of government and its agencies when they make bad decisions.
- I found the way the questionnaire was set up to be somewhat tricky. Are these questions relating to what I want or what I think is the state now.
- Try to include discussions from people that were in the basin 50+ years ago so we have some sense of baseline conditions. Even though these people may now be retired - let's find them too.
- Reduce cattle access to rivers. Better control of random camping and offroad vehicles in forest reserves
- There needs to be more rigorous penalties for the polluters and more conservation enforcement officers in recreational areas who will have the authority to give fines to those who act irresponsibly i.e. pollute river-banks, cause erosion with their RVs,
- The visioning process is all mitherhood and apple pie. It's whether it is effectively applied that counts.
- I believe that our water resources should be managed for the economic and environmental good of the province. To me this means storing water in times of high flow for use during times of low flow for the benefit of licensees and the environment. Alberta should manage the flow of the rivers so that 50% of the flow stays in Alberta, which we are entitled to, and the other 50% of the flow remains in the rivers and flows into neighboring provinces.
- If you are going to clean the river up remove the feed lots from the waters edge and stop letting people water livestock from the river, on grazing leases and crown land.
- This really makes me angry. I though there would be some thoughtful direction to the survey, not some "wishy-washy" vison stuff. I think this line of questions is crap if you are looking for actual imput, individual opinion, and planning direction. These statements are vague and will show no direction... How about showing some leadership?
- Will the vision be consistent with the one being developed for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan?
- More public education! Keep up the good work.
- I feel the survey questions could have been more balanced, between the utopian dream and the realistic current status of the watershed. I'm not sure what valid information you will compile from this. Everyone wants the best without sacrificing anything. Will be interested to see the results. Thanks for the opportunity.
- This is a poor survey!! We need to protect our watershed. If closing areas to protect it may be required as we rape the land and watershed until there is too much damage to repair. Enough talk, time for action!!!
- thanks for including us in the process
- As a headwaters resident I am reminded constantly of how people are increasingly negatively impacting our waterways. Delicate waterways should be protected from all vehicle traffic and cattle now that the number of users has escalated as it has.

Question 11 CONTINUED:

- The public needs to be educated more in terms of the watershed and how they can be more responsible for preserving and enhancing it. As a resident of Lethbridge it seems that many people living in urban centres are less aware of how the watershed affects their lives than those living in rural areas. Generally I find that people are not aware of how they can aid in developing a sustainable watershed.
- I appreciate the opportunity to comment, but have some concerns that this planning process will go the way of our Water For Life strategy - lots of nice words and fancy documents, but minimal action on the ground.
- When taking into consideration population growth and the increasing diversity of the demands on the water system, be it industrial, agricultural or recreational, there is a growing recognition of the need for a vision and a concrete plan to ensure sustainability of the watershed. There may have to be more stringent measures enacted to ensure the watershed is protected and this may mean increased supervision, routine surveillance and periodic monitoring. We as residents have to realize deliberate abuse of the watershed should be dealt with through the legal system which may include fines for abuses. The irrigation districts should also be more cognizant of the responsible use of irrigation water. Farmers who intentionally spill water or shut their systems down for weekends or holidays should be fined if they do not contact their district office or ditch rider. It is their responsibility as irrigators to contact those in charge if there is a need to shut down or if they have mechanical problems which result in their system not being able to operate. As well, water quality has to be monitored on a regular basis. There are areas in the watershed where water quality is compromised by agricultural practises - run-off from fields that have had manure spread on them or the actual spreading of manure too close to canals, spillways etc. affects water quality. Manure application under frozen conditions inhibiting incorporation can increase the chance of run-off in the spring with the snow melt. This type of runoff can also occur with heavy rains. These situations can contribute to contamination of water sources. Pesticides and chemicals of all types also pose a threat to water quality. Education and awareness are also key instruments in the process.
- How much of a role do/ should people from outside the basin have in shaping the future vision of the basin?
- Albertans are generally supportive of protecting watersheds but actions don't match. We need to find out what the barriers are.
- should have certain areas blocked off and fenced in to protect it
- several of the questions are ambiguous and are difficult to answer as a result. I question the validity of the survey results due to the marginal quality of these questions.
- Get rid of FITFIR water allocation system. Everyone should have equal opportunity to get water. Just because Mr Smith's great great great grandfather needed water in the 1800 doesn't mean profit should be made by selling those rights to those who can afford it (ie. the rich). That is an abuse. Monitoring of water use by each user is legislated, enforce it.
- All Oldman basin water not currently diverted for human use is being used by the environment. Please advocate for water for basic human needs and for environmental needs to be set aside on a priority basis and outside the water transfer system.
- Some well researched information is coming from the Council of Canadians. I would like to see their information and spokespersons at the watershed workshops.
- Landowner agreement to responsible public access should be protected by rational judicial designation of liability.
- All residents must share the burden of industrial development for jobs and energy and food production. The foothills should not become a utopia for a few residents who get their gas and food and health care funding at the expense of the prairie areas.

Question 11 CONTINUED:

- Get an effective and cheap way to desalinize ocean water and find a way to get it over the mountains to Medicine Hat!
- test only
- We should not make the mistake of losing the forest for the trees. The health and sustainability of our water systems must be preserved at all costs.
- Canada's waterways are for all Canadian citizens, not just the minority who somehow benefit financially or politically through the "managment" of same. Manage them thusly, with a long term, VERY LONG TERM, vision.
- We used to be able to drink the water in our creeks and rivers and now we can't. Obviously we're ruining the water quality. We have to concentrate and manage development, including urban sprawl, industrial development and irrigation.
- This is a very good questionnaire. Thanks for the chance to participate.
- Being downstream, many of the topics will affect me. Not living in the basin, I was unable to realistically agree or disagree to some of the statements.
- Found the questions a bit weak. Easy to answer #1 to most of them.
- I think that this is a worthwhile exercise. However, the questions are very broad and sometimes ambiguous. The visioning and planning exercises will, of course. have to deal with finer details at some point.
- Well-thought out questionnaire! Will a follow-up re. results of survey appear on the OWC website?
- Of course we all want clean water, but we also have a responsibility to provide water, food and energy to residents. To do it without jeopardizing our future water source is a balancing act.
- Unfortunately beyond meeting minimum Alberta Environment regulations, it appears that municipalities don't have the mandate or funding resources to help enhance or manage water resources. Since Alberta does not have watershed management authorities, there is a serious lack of cooperation for addressing municipal and inter-municipal watershed planning issues. As a result, our watersheds are not receiving the environmental help they need.