

Red Deer River Watershed Society
Nomination Committee Report for 2021 AGM

This final report includes all those who filed nominations and submitted bios by May 31, 2021. There are a total of 10 nominees. These nominations are for election for a two year term (2021- 2023).

Nominees seeking re-election (current board members), include:

Cheri Funke
Daniel Karran
Christine Moore
Helge Nome
JoAnne Volk
Murray Welch

Other Nominees seeking election :

Mike Gallant
Peggy Johnson
Jim Smith
Daryl Swenson

Nominees by category:

(a) Environmental, being not-for profit environmental organizations and local stewardship groups that have a demonstrated interest in one or more aspects of watershed or water use management (2 to be elected; 2 nominated)

Helge Nome -Alberta Freshwater Alliance Society

I would like to continue to serve on the RDRWA Board to help protect and conserve our freshwater in the Red Deer River Watershed.

Murray Welch – Medicine River Watershed Society (MRWS)

My interests in the importance of our rivers and watershed led to my participation on Clear Water Landcare, Celebrating our Successes, West Central Stakeholders synergy, and Medicine River Watershed Society boards.

My respect for the RDRWA public education initiatives about watershed health issues led me to the RDRWA board and the Outreach and WHIP committees. I bring my resource production and engineering experience to our multi-stakeholder table.

I am proud that RDRWA is respected by the GOA and our WPAC partners as a valued participant due to our science based analysis of all watershed related issues.

Helge and Murray are acclaimed in this category

(b) Agriculture, Business, Industry, being groups, associations, companies and corporations (2 to be elected; 2 nominated):

Mike Gallant – Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.

I work as a Senior Water Resources Engineer with a water -focused consulting firm. My work over the last decade or so has focused on the planning, design, construction, and long -term monitoring of bioengineering projects to enhance fish & wildlife habitat and improve riparian health. I also work on urban drainage and water-related infrastructure projects.

I was fortunate to have contributed to the Red Deer River Background technical Report #3: *Surface Water Quantity and Groundwater Resources* back in 2013 and so am familiar with some of the broad issues across the watershed. I also designed and supported construction of a bioengineering project on Waskasoo Creek in Red Deer in 2017- 2018 and deeply understand some of the issues at a site scale. As a graduate of the UBC Integrated Watershed Management Certificate program, I am a firm believer in the importance of working together to support a healthy Red Deer River watershed and am keen to support this goal as a member of the RDRWA board.

JoAnne Volk – Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)

I have been a Board Member with the RDRWA for 4 years, and for the past three years have been the Treasurer. I have enjoyed all aspects of working with a diverse group of Stakeholders on promoting best practices and watershed education. I would like to continue to serve on the Board as I am passionate about the work we do at the RDRWA in support of Water for life, ensuring healthy secure and sustainable water supply for communities, the environment and the economy.

I am representing the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). I have over 20 years of experience as a chemical and environmental engineer, having worked in the pulp industry, in drinking water and wastewater treatment, and in oil and gas production. I have previous board experience in airshed management and minor sports organizations, and previous experience in a pilot community monitoring program for water.

Mike and JoAnne are acclaimed in this category

(c) Municipal Government, (3 to be elected; 4 nominated):

Cheri Funke -Town of Sundre

I have held a position as a Municipal Councillor for 8 years , of which includes 2 years on the RDRWA board. Sundre is the first Municipality along the Red Deer river and it has always been an important aspect of our community, being a part of the board has allowed me to get the perspective of other watershed partners and I am in turn able to keep my Council and community informed. My time as a Councillor also gives me the ability to contribute to the board on governance side as well.

I would appreciate your support to continue as a board member representing municipalities on the RDRWA for the 2021-2023 term. Thank you very much.

Christine Moore -Red Deer County

Water for life is of utmost importance to us all including Municipalities. The planning, land-use and availability of fresh water is intrinsic to healthy communities.

I bring the voice of a Municipality and take back to Red Deer County the rich discussion and direction of the RDRWA.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee over the past 3 years as Vice Chair of the board.

Peggy Johnson – Mountain View County

Growing up about one mile from the Red Deer River on the quarter of land that was homesteaded by my great grandfather demonstrated to me that the decisions we make today have long lasting consequences. I am fortunate to now own and farm the quarter of land next door to the original homestead, even closer to the river. On our farm, located close to Garrington Bridge, my daughter and I raise sheep, chickens, hay, a large vegetable garden, pasture cattle for others, and until last year hosted honey bees.

I'm in my fourth year as a Councillor with Mountain View County, after retiring from a 28- year teaching career at Olds College. As a graduate of the University of Alberta, I have a BSc Agriculture (Animal Science) and a B.Ed After Degree(Adult education). My current education goal is to become a more educated birder.

I am honored to be considered for a position on the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance Board.

Daryl Swenson -Special Areas Board

I operate a large mixed farm in the Bindloss/ Empress area, 15 miles from the fork in the Red Deer River and South Saskatchewan River. Growing up in the region, I attended school in Medicine Hat and Olds. As a strong community leader, I serve on many community initiatives including Bindloss Parent Council, Bindloss Hall Board, and remount Grazing Association. My years of experience as an agricultural producer gives me great insight as a 4H Leader. First appointed to Advisory Council in 2007, I have served as a board member since 2014. I have also been active in several committees for the Board.

There will a voting process in this category

(d) Provincial and Federal departments and agencies, and Academia, including universities and colleges (1 to be elected; 1 nominated)

Dan Karran -Olds College

I am a faculty instructor with the Olds College Werklund school of Agricultural Technology. I hold a PhD in Geography (Hydrology) from the University of Saskatchewan and water has been the focus of my career for the past 15 years. I am a returning Board member that has served on the RDRWA board for the past 2 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service with the RDRWA and I feel I have a lot to offer , as this organization aligns extremely well with my expertise, research, and the topics I teach at the College. It is my objective to better integrate the activities of the RDRWA with Olds College.

Dan is acclaimed in this category

(e)First Nations and/or Aboriginal - (one vacancy, no nominees)

(f) Individual beings individuals having an interest in watershed or water use management, especially within the Red Deer River Watershed. (1 to be elected, 1 nominated)

Jim Smith

I have been fortunate over my lifetime to blend together some of my professional work and my academic studies with my personal interests. I have had over 35 years of professional expertise in owning and operating several businesses, including a resource consulting firm, an environmental drilling company, a real estate appraisal firm, and a farm. I have provided leadership, management, consultation, and facilitation for numerous projects and initiatives in sectors including agriculture, petroleum, government, First Nations, conservation, education, and research. I have provided counsel and valuation services to an array of national, provincial, and local land trust, conservation organizations. A favorite project involved working with multiple government departments and private organizations to facilitate creation of Alberta’s first Heritage Rangeland designation on a combination of private and public lands and one of Canada’s largest land conservation donations. I also provided expertise in facilitating one of Alberta’s smallest conservation easement donations on a very ecologically important property.

As well as completing a PhD with a focus on sustainability /ESG, corporate social responsibility, and land use, I have provided leadership as chair and board member on the Olds College Board of Governors; as board member of Alberta Agriculture and Food Council, and the Sothern Land Trust Society; I was the founder and first president of Legacy Land Trust Society; and I am an active Rotarian.

I am now practicing retirement, although I am not very good at it! My wife and I have been volunteers in a small Mexican community where I help teach English in an elementary school. As a Rotarian, I approached our Olds Rotary Club, which very generously supported our endeavors with financial contributions to assist the parents and community members to obtain fresh water, working bathrooms, desks, and other classroom equipment. Several years ago we launched a school/ community garden

project, which may become a pilot for others in the area. As elsewhere, COVID-19 has created uncertainties in that environment as well.

Rivers are the threads of life for the communities they impact. As societies we need to make wise choices about how our rivers are used and cared for. My wife and I recently completed a donation of a conservation easement on one of our quarters that is cut by the Little Red Deer – that is probably a tangible indicator of why I might wish to support the work of the RDRWA.

Jim Smith is acclaimed in this category

This final report is respectfully submitted by the Recruitment and Nomination Committee on June 4th.