



Nose Creek Watershed Partnership

25th Anniversary Celebration and Science Forum

October 12, 2023

OPENING REMARKS

Presentation by: Mayor Kim Harris, Town of Crossfield

Ladies and gentlemen, members and friends of the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership,

I am deeply honored to stand before you today to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of our communities – the 25th anniversary of the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership. This occasion is not just a time for reflection, but also a moment to look forward, to acknowledge the importance of our collective efforts, and to recognize the critical role we play in preserving the Nose Creek Watershed.

For a quarter of a century, this partnership has been at the forefront of environmental stewardship and conservation. Together, we have dedicated our time, resources, and energy to protect the precious natural resources within our watershed. The significance of this mission cannot be overstated. Our watershed not only provides life-sustaining water but also supports diverse ecosystems, offers recreational opportunities, and contributes to the overall well-being of our communities.

One of the key strengths of the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership has been its commitment to collaboration, not just within our own ranks but also with our regional municipal partners. We understand that the challenges we face are not bound by municipal boundaries. Pollution, urban development, and the changing climate affect us all, irrespective of where we reside. It is through this collaboration with our neighboring communities that we have been able to work together on holistic, region-wide solutions to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our shared environment.

By working hand in hand with our regional municipal partners, we have been able to pool resources, knowledge, and expertise. We've engaged in joint initiatives that involve education, research, and innovative projects aimed at reducing pollution, conserving water, and protecting the biodiversity of our watershed. This spirit of cooperation exemplifies the power of collective action and serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when we come together for a common cause.

As we celebrate 25 years of dedication to the Nose Creek Watershed, let us remember that our work is far from over. Ever changing growth poses new and evolving challenges that demand our continued commitment and collaboration. It is our responsibility to ensure that this precious resource, the Nose Creek Watershed, remains vibrant and healthy for generations to

come. Through ongoing partnerships, shared knowledge, and the dedication of all those involved, I have no doubt that we will succeed in our mission.

So, on this special anniversary, let us not only celebrate our past achievements but also renew our commitment to protecting the Nose Creek Watershed and working in harmony with our regional partners. Together, we can continue to be a force for positive change, a beacon of hope for a sustainable future, and an inspiration to communities near and far.

Congratulations to the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership and thank you to all of you who have contributed to this incredible cause. Here's to the next 25 years of collaboration, progress, and environmental stewardship. Thank you.

Presentation by: Mark Bennett, BRBC past Executive Director and NCWP Alumni

Thank you.

I am honoured by the invitation to provide some opening comments. I am indeed privileged to know some of the folks in this room. I am positively delighted to meet the rest. Let me tell you a little about myself. I retired in 2020 after being the E.D. of the BRBC for just over 20 years. Let me assure you that was my dream job. A little background.

I have an undergraduate degree in biology, and a Master's in Public Policy/Political Science (now there is an oxymoron if ever there was one). I am also a dreaded D.E. (Displaced Easterner). Although in my defence, I did spend 18 years in MB to ease into the west and earn my spurs. The last 9 years in MB, I spent as the E.M. for the City of Winnipeg, including the '97 Red River Flood. So, I know a little about flooding.

I thought when I came here to drought stricken Southern AB, I might be done with flooding. We know how pursuant that was. However, I did become very interested you might even say immersed in Watershed Management and all its facets.

In the Bow Basin, it is very easy to be seduced by the pristine vistas of the upper watershed – Bow Lake, Lake Louise, Banff, Bow falls. I can honestly say I took a particular interest in Nose Creek.

I think we are measured, even judged, by how we treat the least amongst us.

No part of a watershed, no matter how small, or how tormented should be written off. For if it were done here, or anywhere, think of what a dangerous precedent that sets. If you grade any portion unrecoverable, how do you stop that from spreading, like a cancer, into broader reaches?

This little hard-working creek has been pushed and prodded, channelized, straightened and in some places greatly altered. Yet, we learn much from Nose Creek, and the urban influences upon it.

It has demonstrated great resilience.

Our dedicated colleague Sandi, whilst electrofishing has found trout as far upstream as the confluence. That is remarkable.

Today, we are blessed to hear some superb presentations about other matters that this creek has taught us.

In closing, I would just like to say that in my experience the greatest thing for me, working in the watersheds, is the brilliant and devoted people I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with. Who better to help unravel the delicate challenges that this creek offers than those of you in this room.

Thank you for being here, for the creek.