



# **Wabamun Lake Citizens' Panel**

*A Shared Vision for a Healthy Watershed*

# What is the Citizens' Panel...

- A jointly developed organizational structure for liaising with the Wabamun community and supporting the implementation of watershed conservation activities.
- The Citizens' Panel serves as a forum for communication among representatives of the Wabamun Lake community.
- It affirms a shared vision for environmental objectives, and provides guidance to its partners on the decision making processes, programs, and resources required to achieve this vision.
- Vision and objectives will be consistent with those of the Government of Alberta's *Water For Life Strategy*.
- It will embrace a philosophy of shared responsibility, and building community capacity to meet environmental and social objectives.

# Who will be able to participate...

- Consistent with the guiding principles of *Water for Life*, the Citizens' Panel will demonstrate inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability in representing the interests of the Wabamun Lake community.
- It will serve as a true partnership, where the contribution and value of each of its member representatives will be recognized, and mutually supported to achieve shared environmental outcomes.

# Who will be able to participate...

- The Citizens' Panel may include 20 representatives from the following community interests:

• Alberta Government	2
• Federal Government	1
• Local Government	
– Parkland County	1
– Wabumun Village/Summer Villages	2
– Paul Band	2
• Industry	2
• NGO Environmental	3
• NGO Recreational	2
• Public Member	4
• Science Advisor	1
- Representatives will be selected from nominations/applications received from the community.

# Who will be able to participate...

- The Citizens' Panel will employ science-based decision making with the support of a Science Advisor. The Science Advisor would facilitate additional independent research/review of the environmental issues recognized by the Citizen's Panel and act as liaison to a parallel science advisory group.
- Additional opportunities for community input would be through task teams and project-specific subcommittees, as well as public meetings on key issues.
- The Citizens' Panel will play a key role implementing planning initiatives, conservation projects, and education/awareness programs through its partner members.
- Guiding documents could include Terms of Reference, Operational Guides (chair terms/responsibilities, governance, etc), and Business Plans.

# How will it be supported...

- The Government of Alberta recognizes the unique environmental challenges faced by the Wabamun community, and is committed to supporting a Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel:
  - As a forum for public engagement in discussions on water and watershed management
  - In developing a plan for implementing the Schindler recommendations
  - As a Watershed Stewardship Group in addressing *Water for Life* objectives and maintaining communication and planning linkages to the North Saskatchewan Watershed Planning and Advisory Committee, the NSWA.

# How will it be supported...

- AENV is committed to supporting the operational and administrative needs of the Citizens' Panel to develop its guiding documents.
- Continued support would be annually reviewed and based on performance and outcome measures.
- Support for individual projects and/or programs coordinated by the Citizens' Panel would be a shared responsibility among partners and external funding sources.

# Process and Timelines...

- **Dec 2005** AENV will develop draft Terms of Reference.
- **Jan 2006** Hold public forum to discuss draft Terms of Reference.
- **Feb 2006** Public announcement and invitation for nominations/applications.
- **Feb 2006** Representatives selected from applications/nominations received from community.
- **Mar 2006** Citizens' Panel meeting – visioning and business planning.

More info: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/WabamunLake.html>