



# PLWMP Engagement Report

*What we heard from the  
Pigeon Lake watershed  
community when we asked:*

*“Are We On Track”?*

*Conclusions*

*&*

*Next Steps*

*December 2013*



## Work, Findings & Next Steps



## Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to share with the Pigeon Lake watershed community, decision-makers and other interested parties what we heard through the 2013 Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) public engagement efforts, the conclusions drawn and the next steps.



This report summarizes input received through an Annual Leaders Advisory Session in February 2013 bringing together representatives of counties and summer villages in the watershed, provincial government staff, and PLWA Board, two public engagement events, and a survey in August 2013 of 618 watershed community members. Of these, 184 survey responses were received representing approximately 386 full and part-time residents from across the watershed.

### ***What We Heard***

1. Survey respondents were very supportive of the plan's fundamentals and PLWMP work, with over 95% of survey respondents either fully or somewhat supportive of the goal, guiding principles, and process of the PLWMP, and the need for the creation of a watershed plan for Pigeon Lake.
2. Survey respondents also confirmed the priorities identified through the Leaders Advisory Session of the next topics requiring investigation and action as storm/surface water management, riparian/shoreline restoration and management, and land conservation/protecting priority landscapes, with an additional interest in agricultural best practices and land development practices. Respondents also identified a further range of topics for future investigation, but indicated confidence in the PLWMP Steering Committee; their expertise and ability to make appropriate choices.
3. Comments on the rationale for what topic should come next in the PLWMP work, conveyed a sense of urgency with many respondents concerned with current practices of residents, the destruction of natural habitat, and degradation of water quality.
4. In balancing regulatory and educational approaches to implementing initiatives supporting the health of the lake, respondents voiced a tendency toward stronger regulatory action to encourage better practices in the watershed. 22% of survey respondents favoured only regulation and enforcement actions, 19% favoured the provision of education but with an emphasis on regulation, 35% put an equal emphasis on education and regulation, and 6% favoured only education. Suggestions for encouraging greater compliance included increased communication and education; establishing consistent and effective bylaws, regulations and enforcement initiatives; assessing fines for infractions; and establishing mechanisms for community reporting of violators.
5. Based upon the input received through its engagement activities including the Leaders Advisory Session and the community survey, in response to the question, "Are We On Track?" the Pigeon Lake Watershed community clearly endorses the direction and focus of the PLWMP's work to date and into the future.

**KEY CONCLUSIONS** (See the full list in the report)

1. The PLWMP Steering Committee can with confidence move ahead in the creation of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan.
2. The PLWMP Terms of Reference (TOR) can be finalized.
3. Five clear priority topics: Storm / Surface Water; Riparian Restoration; Priority Landscapes Conservation; Working with the Agricultural Community; and Land Development (beyond the 800 metres from the shoreline that is being addressed with the Model Land Use Bylaw).
5. Given that the enforceable regulations, supported by education, are desired the possibility of bylaws must be explored for each appropriate topic.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. **Continue work on the two current topics Cosmetic Fertilizers and Soil Management, and Model Land Use Bylaw.**

Cosmetic Fertilizer and Soil Management Next Steps: Send out the topic survey to share the basics of the research conducted and to collect community concerns and considerations. With the survey input, the committee will draft and circulate draft recommendations for individuals, municipalities and the PLWA.

Model Land Use Bylaw Topic Next Steps: Efforts to collect input on the Draft Model Land Use Bylaw (for land 800 metres and closer to the lake), begun this last summer. A survey to gather further input will be undertaken in the early spring.

2. **Start New Topic: Storm / Surface Water Management**

Based on what the Steering Committee heard and the current opportunities to access critical competencies, the next topic to be tackled will be Storm and Surface Water. When the Steering Committee starts work on this topic they will determine the scope which may include where and what mitigation options, based on the current in-depth water assessment data, are needed for places to manage the water runoff and reduce the contaminants going into the lake. The recruitment of members with competency in this area has already begun.

There was an expressed interest that work with the Agriculture community be explored. The Steering Committee needs to first explore with members of the watershed residents who own farm operations what possibilities exist to create a mutually beneficial agenda for the health of the lake.

3. **Raise funds to match the Community Spirit matching grant and to complete the PLWMP.**
4. **Increase engagement efforts, to connect with and to engage more people.**

## Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	3
<b>About This Report</b> .....	7
<b>About the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP)</b> .....	8
2012 / 13 PLWMP Steering Committee Participants.....	9
PLWMP Sponsorship.....	10
Map of the Pigeon Lake Watershed .....	10
The Engagement Plan .....	11
<b>Watershed Decision-Maker Engagements</b> .....	12
What Was Done .....	12
Annual Pigeon Lake Leaders Advisory Session .....	12
What We heard .....	13
Additional Engagement with Pigeon Lake Governments .....	14
<b>Watershed Community Engagement</b> .....	16
What We did .....	16
What We Heard .....	19
Overall Plan Support .....	19
Level of Support for Key PLWMP TOR Components .....	20
Topic Prioritization Debate .....	22
Education & Regulations .....	23
<b>Conclusions</b> .....	28
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	30
Appendix A: List of Acronyms .....	32
Appendix B: Annual Leadership Advisory Session Invitation List .....	33
Appendix C: Annual Leadership Advisory Session Feedback .....	34
Appendix D: Survey Topic Responses & Comments .....	37
Appendix E: Survey Responses & Comments.....	39

## List of Figures & Tables

Figure 1: Map of the Pigeon Lake Watershed .....	8
Table 1: Level of Involvement in the PLWMP on the IAP2 Public Participation Model .....	9
Figure 2: Survey Responders Property Locations.....	15
Figure 3: Survey Responders Connections to the Lake.....	16
Figure 4: Support for the Creation of the PLWMP .....	17
Figure 5: PLWMP Goal Support .....	18
Figure 6: Support for the PLWMP Process .....	18
Figure 7: Support for the PLWMP Guiding Principles .....	19
Figure 8: Education & Regulatory Emphasis .....	14
Table 2: Education & Regulatory Emphasis .....	14

**Special thanks** to all the **Pigeon Lake watershed community members and interested stakeholders** who have chosen to engage with the work of the PLWMP, attending a public session, filling in surveys, sitting on a committee or simply sending their thoughts to [plwmpinfo@gmail.com](mailto:plwmpinfo@gmail.com).

**Special thanks** to the **PLWMP Engagement Committee members and contributors** for their work on this report:

- Doris Bell – PLWMP Steering Committee APLM representative, and Mayor of the Summer Village of Crystal Springs
- Susan Ellis – PLWMP Steering Committee member and PLWA President
- Robert Gibbs – Chair of the PLWMP Steering Committee, and PLWA Director
- Leslie Kaun – MaMeO Watershed resident
- Arin MacFarlane Dyer – Executive Director of ALMS
- Ian Montgomerie – IMI Strategics and Expert Consultant
- Sharina Kennedy, AESRD Environmental Education & Awareness Specialist
- Sarah Skinner – BRWA Watershed Planning Coordinator

## About This Report

**The purpose of the report is to share what we heard over the summer of 2013 public engagement efforts from the Pigeon Lake watershed community, decision-makers and other interested parties about the 2013 Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP), its terms of reference, the conclusions drawn and next steps.**

In order to hear from the community, the PLWMP presented the watershed community members with a number of opportunities during the summer of 2013 to consider the proposed mandate and other key factors of the PLWMP and provide the Steering Committee with their feedback. Engagement efforts included open houses, workshops, and an on-line survey, all of which were designed to give watershed residents an opportunity to learn about the proposed plan, to participate in shaping the key plan components, and to start to make it their plan; a community watershed management plan.

This report describes:

- the engagement opportunities presented to decision-makers and watershed residents,
- the efforts made to connect people to these opportunities,
- feedback received from those who chose to be involved,
- conclusions drawn from that feedback, and
- next steps for the PLWMP.

Of critical importance for the PLWMP Steering Committee was to learn from as many people as possible, whether they would support the PLWMP as proposed and what modifications were needed.

The creation of the plan is a process. The Steering Committee needs elected officials, decision-makers and watershed residents participate throughout the planning process so that what is produced will have support and the recommendations and outputs will be acted on.

*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together*

*~African Wisdom Saying*



## About the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP)

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) initiated the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Pigeon Lake in 2009 after the Pigeon Lake State of the Watershed Report (July 2008, Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd.), recommended to create a plan with the watershed community and experts to lessen the watershed impacts on the lake. PLWA Directors personally funded the early efforts to engage key stakeholders and determine the scope. This has now evolved into the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP).



The creation of watershed management plans has been adopted in Alberta as the best way to provide a roadmap for coordinating efforts of municipalities, watershed groups and community members in determining and implementing the best possibilities to enhance water quality.

The PLWMP is being guided by the watershed management planning process outlined in Alberta's Water for Life Strategy. We draw on the expertise and learning that has preceded us in the belief that this approach may give us a greater results, including the possibility of having the PLWMP recognized by the Alberta Water Council.

*The Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides leadership, expertise and sector knowledge to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations, and governments to achieve the outcomes of the Water for Life strategy.*

Alberta Water Council  
Mission Statement



This approach has also been adopted to ensure that we will develop well-founded management recommendations for the consideration of watershed residents, stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels of government.

Learn more at [www.plwmp.ca](http://www.plwmp.ca)





A Steering Committee meeting. Robert (Bob) Gibbs, PLWMP Steering Committee Chair, on right.

## 2011 / 12 / 13 PLWMP Steering Committee Participants

### Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM) Representatives, Municipal Elected Members, and County Staff

1. Doris Bell, APLM Vice-Chair and Mayor of Crystal Springs Summer Village \*
2. Don Davidson, Mayor of Grandview Summer Village, APLM Representative and Past PLWA Director\*
3. Ruth Harrison, Farm Operator and Past Leduc County Councillor
4. Nicholas Moffat, Parks Department, Leduc County
5. Rex Neilson, APLM Representative and Councillor of the Summer Village of Itaska Beach \*
6. Larry McKeever, County of Wetaskiwin Councillor

### Environmental & Stewardship Partners and Agencies

- David Samm, Executive Director, Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)
- Sarah Skinner, Watershed Planning Coordinator, (BRWA)
- Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)
- David Trew, Executive Director, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)

### Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA)

- Gene Begg, Farm Operator and Past PLWA Director \*
- Susan Ellis, PLWA President \*
- Michael Gaian, PLWA Director and Chair of the Mission Beach Rate Payer Association\*
- Bob Gibb, PLWMP Steering Committee Chair and PLWA Director
- Hugh Sanders, PLWA Director and BRWA Board Chair \*

### Provincial Government Members

- Greg Nelson, Watershed Planner, (AESRD)
- Colleen Phelan, replaced by Wiebe Buruma, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD)
- Cheryl Galbraith, replaced by Jess Popadynetz, Alberta Health Services (AHS)
- Terry N. Krause, Regional Planner, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (ATPR)
- Chris Teichreb, Limnologist, AESRD

### ★ Watershed Residents

## PLWMP Sponsorship



August 2012 - \$25,000

Fall 2012 - \$15,000

Summer 2013 - \$35,000 (matching)

## The Pigeon Lake Watershed

A watershed area is the area around a body of water (i.e. lake or river) up to the highest point at which water will be pulled by gravity towards the water body versus away from it.

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) focuses on what actions in the Pigeon Lake watershed (grey area in Figure 1) would help to stop the on-going deterioration of the lake water quality and recover better water quality.

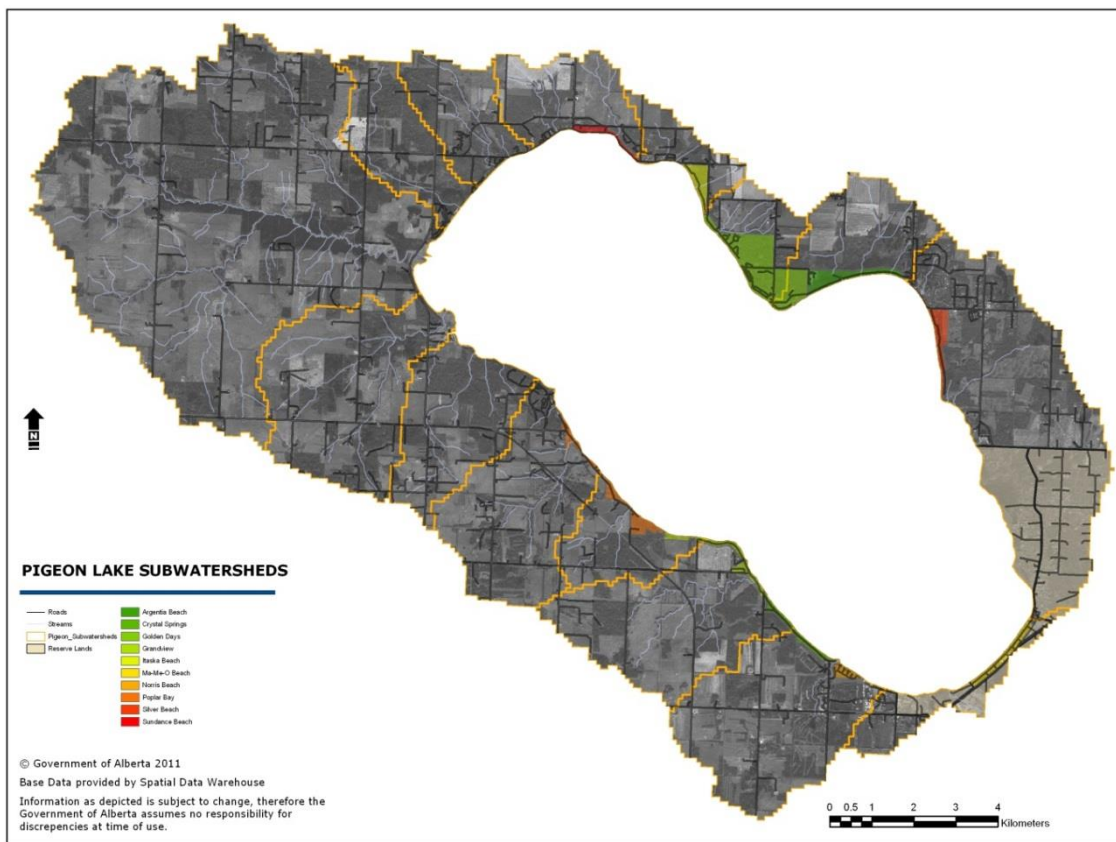


Figure 1: Map of the Pigeon Lake Watershed

## The Engagement Plan

The PLWMP has developed an Engagement Strategy to guide the actions to engage watershed residents and decision-makers and to encourage people to participate. As resources allow, this plan is being followed.

The Engagement Strategy presents different degrees to which people may be involved in the PLWMP planning process, based on the International Association for Public Participation’s Spectrum. Table 1 outlines these “levels” of involvement and corresponding goals and opportunities for participation. Higher levels equates to greater potential involvement.

The overall goal is to engage as many part and full-time watershed residents and interested parties as possible, on whatever level they wish. The first step is to connect with people at the “Inform” level so they are aware of the planning process and have the opportunity to participate.

Table 1: Level of Involvement in the PLWMP based on the IAP2 Public Participation Model

	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Stakeholder Engagement Goal	Stakeholders are aware of the PLWMP: process, involvement opportunities information outputs and progress.	Stakeholders give input & feedback during the PLWMP process.	Stakeholders interact, question and discuss PLWMP content and recommendations.	Watershed stakeholders support the module recommendations and can explain the thinking behind them.
Opportunities to be Involved	Visit the PLWMP website <a href="http://www.plwmp.ca">www.plwmp.ca</a> Sign-up to receive PLWMP communication	Complete surveys Submit comments Attend public information sessions	Leader Sessions Public engagement • Panels • Discussion/Focus Groups • Workshops • Webinars	WMP Steering Committee and module subcommittees

The Engagement Committee created a website into which information is being added as it is generated through the planning process. As each PLWMP topic is addressed that committee’s Terms of Reference will be posted, along with a list of the committee members, the related science generated or researched on the topic, survey highlights, the committee’s recommendations and other topic outputs. The website is [www.plwmp.ca](http://www.plwmp.ca).

An email address has been set up for people to use to communicate anything related to the PLWMP. This email currently goes to the Steering Committee Chair and Engagement Committee Chair. It is [plwmpinfo@gmail.com](mailto:plwmpinfo@gmail.com).

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association members are automatically receiving communications. Other watershed residents are encouraged to “Get Connected” either as subscribers (via the PLWMP website or email) or as a PLWA member or newsletter subscriber via [www.plwa.ca](http://www.plwa.ca) or [info@plwa.ca](mailto:info@plwa.ca).

## Watershed Decision-Maker Engagements

### What Was Done

A number of actions were taken to engage municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations with the PLWMP in 2012 and 2013. Engaging various governments is critical for ensuring the plan reflects the shared ownership of all the decision-makers and influential leaders in the Pigeon Lake watershed, and that recommendations and outputs will be acted on for the health of the lake.

The Steering Committee operates with the premise that in order to gain the support of the Provincial Government and the Alberta Water Council for the PLWMP, it is critical that opportunities be made available to engage as many people and groups in and around the watershed as possible, in the PLWMP.

Key municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations contacts have been included on email circulation lists for notices of PLWMP public engagement events. Key contacts include the Consultation Coordinators for the four First Nations bands who have land within the watershed and representatives from various provincial government departments (including AHS, AESRD, and ATPR (See Appendix A for list of Acronyms)). Information meetings were held with both the Provincial AESRD Minister McQueen and the Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, Mr. Blaine Calkins.

### Annual Pigeon Lake Leaders Advisory Session - April 13, 2013

Seventy-three people were invited to attend an important session as one participant stated, “... to hear, talk and to advise on the work that is being done for the health of the lake and its' watershed. It is our time as the lake's leadership to consider how we are supporting, coordinating our actions and working together.” Thirty-nine decision-makers and influencers planned to attend, however a major snowstorm prevented many from doing so. Nineteen people did attend despite the weather. (See Appendix B for a breakdown of invitations and attendance)

The leadership session consisted of six presentations, followed by key questions, discussion and feedback opportunities. Presentations included information on the:

- PLWA plans for the summer;
- PLWMP Terms of Reference, Engagement Strategy, progress and next steps for the first two topic committees underway (Cosmetic Fertilizers & Soil Management and A Model Land Use Bylaw); and,
- APLM and its work on the feasibility of potential in-lake options to improve water quality.



The PLWMP Terms of Reference presentation included an introduction to the PLWMP, what it is, the plan priorities, the challenges and opportunities for Pigeon Lake, who is involved, the PLWMP Goal, an introduction to Beneficial Management Practices, and potential PLWMP Topics.

## What We Heard

Overarching comments indicated that the leadership session was worthwhile:

*“A very good process to continue the interaction between various levels of government and groups.”*

*“Overall an excellent meeting and exchange of ideas.”*

Three of the key questions presented in the session were:

1. Source Controls and Nutrient Runoff: What are people saying about the problem and urgency to act?
2. Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs): How will it best work?
3. PLWMP Topics/Priorities: Is the list complete? What is the next top priority?

**Sense of Urgency:** There was agreement that nutrient sources and runoff should be managed. The elected officials verbally ranked the sense of urgency from people in their municipalities as moderate to high. Some also expressed a belief that many people are uninformed about this issue.

Generally the leaders seemed to like the concept of **Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)**; recommendations for good, better and best practices but there was little discussion on the subject and no one wrote a comment which referred directly to BMP's.

General discussion and comments pertaining to the different components of the PLWMP Terms of Reference was limited, although the PLWMP's process did elicit some comments:

*“This is a process that must be implemented to gain information and knowledge and satisfy Government requirements for approval of WMP.”*

*“Make sure it meets AESRD consultation process and request meetings with community groups (Chamber of Commerce) and Lakedell Ag Society.”*

*“From a SV perspective, I think we need a focused targeted strategy. Information overload can be too overwhelming and result in no action/frustration. Ask 1-2 things we want [people] to focus on and get those changes in behaviour to take root.”*

The question as to which topics should be the priority topics and which should be next did generate discussion. While no consensus was called for, three topics dominated as the priority topics:

- Storm Water /Surface Water
- Riparian Restoration
- Priority Landscapes/Land Conservancy

Leaders formal feedback pertaining to the PLWMP Terms of Reference indicated that 81% were very satisfied and 18% were somewhat satisfied with it. Comments included:

*“Should be a major focus in 2013/14”*

*“... make it very clear who ALL the partners are, ...about it being all players in the Watershed.”*

*“How do we get every summer village and stakeholder group to join?”*

Find more comments from the Leaders Advisory Session in Appendix C.



Leaders Session Participants Left to Right: **Jeff Lloyd** (PLWA Dir., Ma-Me-O), **Greg Nelson** (AESRD Planner), **Emile Beaudry** (PLWA Dir., Argentia), **Rex Neilson** (Itaska Councillor, APLM Rep), **Ruth Harrison** (Leduc County Councillor + APLM Rep), **Don Davidson** (APLM Rep, Grandview Mayor), **Randal Kay** (Golden Days Mayor), **Deb McDaniel** (Poplar Bay Mayor), **Don Smallwood** (PLWA Dir, Viola), **Pat Sloan** (Poplar Bay Councillor), **Dave Evoy** (Norris Councillor), **Larry McKeever** (County of Wetaskiwin Councillor + APLM Rep), Pete Langelle (Ma-Me-O Councillor + APLM Rep), **Marcia Mielke** (PLWA Dir Golden Days), **Arin McFarlane-Dyer** (ALMS Ex Dir), **Michael Gaian** (PLWA Dir, Mission), **Doris Bell** (Crystal Springs Mayor + APLM Vice-chair). Also in attendance: **Robert Gibbs** (PLWA Dir., + PLWMP Steering Committee Chair), **Susan Ellis** (PLWA President), and **Ian Montgomerie** (Session Designer and Facilitator).

## Additional Engagement with Pigeon Lake Governments

The PLWMP Steering Committee considers the Summer Village elected officials critical to the work of the PLWMP because there are potential correlations between officials participating to learn and understand the background of each topic, officials having the opportunity to shape the recommendations and officials implementing the recommendations.

### The Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM):

The APLM was asked to enter into an equal partnership with the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) to provide the governance and leadership for the PLWMP process and implementation. While most of the APLM were fully supportive of everything but assuming any fiscal responsibilities, their representatives decided that they would support the PLWMP by delegating two of its elected members to sit on the PLWMP Steering Committee as full participants representing the interests of the APLM. The APLM have welcomed and received PLWMP updates at their APLM meetings.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Steering Committee Chair provided an in-depth presentation on the PLWMP and its Terms of Reference (TOR), to eleven APLM representatives. The APLM Representatives have been encouraged to take the TOR to their councils and to provide feedback. To date, Wetaskiwin has provided input.

### Summer Villages:

The PLWA meets annually with each of the **Summer Villages** during the first quarter of the year. These meetings include an update on the progress of the PLWMP, the importance of the plan, and an opportunity to talk about the PLWMP and give input.

A PLWMP Engagement Committee member emailed and called APLM Officers and most of the individual municipalities (Summer Villages and Counties) to ask them to encourage their councillors to attend at least one PLWMP Public Engagement Session.

### County Councils:

The PLWA met with each **County Council** twice last year and two PLWA Directors also met with the County of Wetaskiwin Reeve and the Councillor whose division abuts the lake. Both Counties were invited and encouraged to engage with the PLWMP to share knowledge, help shape the plan and/or support the PLWMP in any of the following ways:

- Dedicate a representative to the PLWMP Steering Committee;
- Be represented through the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities Representatives;
- Have same or different representatives on one or more task groups;
- Interested councillors may wish to engage on a task group and/or with the individual modules' engagement opportunities;
- Invite the PLWMP steering committee to keep the County Council informed via annual or bi-annual update presentations to the Council;
- Have councillors participate in the annual (or bi-annual) Leaders Advisory Sessions; and/or,
- Provide a monetary donation of support to the PLWMP via the PLWA.

### Leduc County:

The county engaged a member of their Parks staff to act as a liaison with the PLWMP (and PLWA) and to attend PLWMP meetings. The Pigeon Lake Leduc County Division 6 councillor attended the PLWMP meetings and a Public Engagement Session, and one of their planners from the Planning department attended the Model Land Use Bylaw topic committee meetings. The County also provided \$15,000 and a letter of support the work of the PLWMP. The Mayor also applauded the PLWMP in a "Close to Home" public video sponsored by the Alberta Wastewater Operations Association, about the community's efforts for the lake.

### The County of Wetaskiwin (COW):

The COW reviewed the Terms of Reference and a councillor met with the Steering Committee Chair to discuss the PLWMP. The PLWMP Steering Committee made at least 35 modifications based on the county's feedback. The councillor for the Pigeon Lake region of the county attends many of the PLWMP meetings. The COW Council welcomes an annual PLWMP update.

### The First Nations Bands from Pigeon Lake:

The PLWA President, made a presentation about the work being done for the health of Pigeon Lake to a number of Elders from the four First Nations bands in 2012. This was arranged by the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS). Since then, the PLWA has offered to meet and update both the Elders, Chiefs and Council. Efforts to arrange this by one of the First Nation Consultation Coordinators and the PLWA First Nations Liaison have not yet been successful. Phone messages are routinely left with each of the Consultation Coordinators the week before most events, to encourage them to pass an invitation to their people who live on the Pigeon Lake Reserve. A few residents did attend the Pigeon Lake 2013 AGM.

## Watershed Community Engagement

### What We Did

During 2013, efforts to connect the **watershed community** with the PLWMP process and to inform everyone about the PLWMP events were numerous.

#### Outreach:

- **Volunteers** on 6 different beaches distributed a handout, **“Your Opportunity to Provide Input to the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan!”**, to residents and encouraged them to get connected if they were not already. Residents were asked to attend one of the PLWMP events and the PLWA AGM, which included a PLWMP update, copies of the PLWMP Terms of Reference and an opportunity to talk with PLWMP Steering Committee members and give feedback.
- Most of the Summer Villages posted the public engagement information in their summer newsletters and a few posted on their websites.
- Two “Events” advertisements were posted in the local Pipestone Flyer.
- An “Events” email was sent to 863 PLWA members, PLWA subscribers, PLWMP subscribers, First Nations and other interested parties, on July 4<sup>th</sup> – highlighting first the PLWMP Public sessions. The Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce passed on the notice of events to their members.
- The PLWA Newsletter was sent July 11<sup>th</sup>, to the entire PLWA database, which included a PLWMP update and a page on all the summer events including the PLWMP public events.
- A notice about the PLWA AGM and afternoon PLWMP session was sent to their entire contact list and a separate invitation was sent to each of the First Nation Consultation Coordinators, as they requested, during phone calls to them.
- The events were posted on a local events calendar.
- The PLWA booth was at four Lakedell Farmer Markets and at the Wetaskiwin Royal Bank Blue Water Day where PLWA/PLWMP information was handed out. People were encouraged to get connected and to attend the upcoming events.

**3 PLWMP Public Engagement Events** were held on both the South and North sides of the Pigeon Lake: July 6<sup>th</sup> at Lakedell Hall, July 13<sup>th</sup> at Sandholm Hall and August 24<sup>th</sup> at Lakedell Hall (the PLWA AGM was held in the morning and the PLWMP event in the afternoon).

The first two events were specifically about the PLWMP and key aspects of the Terms of Reference. 33 people signed in at these two sessions.

These events employed a mixed format: They started with an open house drop-in format. From 10 am to noon, people could pick up information and talk with the PLWMP Steering Committee members. This was followed by a sit down presentation and discussion facilitated by specific questions on various aspects of the PLWMP Terms of Reference.



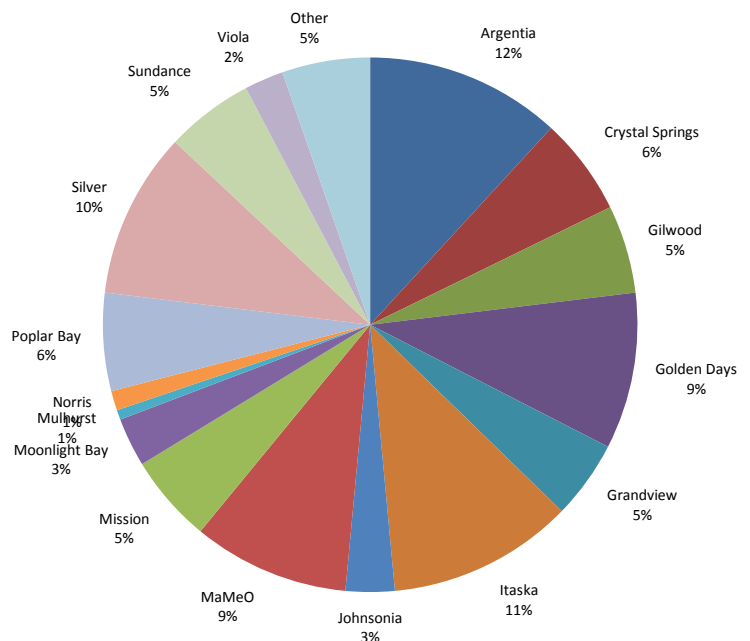


A survey, **“The PLWMP – Are We On Track?”**, designed to ask about key aspects of the PLWMP Terms of Reference, was available online from August 16<sup>th</sup> until September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

Two emails about the survey went to all watershed residents, PLWA members and subscribers, and PLWMP subscribers, a total of 618 people. 43% opened the first email; 40% opened the reminder email.

People could respond from the survey email message itself or from the PLWMP website. A total of 184 surveys were completed, which represented 386 people who were, with a few exceptions, full and part-time residents from the watershed.

Figure 2: Responders Property Locations



We learned that the survey location options did not include all neighbourhoods, which did not make everyone feel welcome to respond to the survey. Future surveys will stress how important it is to hear from everyone and just ask respondents which municipality they live in.

Survey respondents indicated that while reaching more people is important, of the survey responders, there were the voices from people with a number of different connections to the lake. This was good to get the different social perspectives along with thoughts touching on the governance, economics and environmental considerations.

Even though outreach was done in numerous ways, the bulk of the responders came from the summer villages around the lake. This information shows that more efforts are needed to reach and welcome people back from the lake on estates and farm operators. More voices from people with different economic ties would be welcome as the planning moves forward, business owners and people who work in the watershed. Campers are simply not part of the process and with the Pigeon Lake First Nation bands which is a concern. Ideally, future surveys will include more explicit efforts to engage and survey these groups.

It will take additional effort and resources to connect and engage more people in the PLWMP process in a meaningful way. The efforts to date have been a stretch of the current resources available. A few people are doing a lot, although additional people have made offers to help, and support by volunteers and Summer Villages to distribute outreach materials to beach and estate residents was encouraging.

*“How can people who don't have memberships be made more aware of events?”*

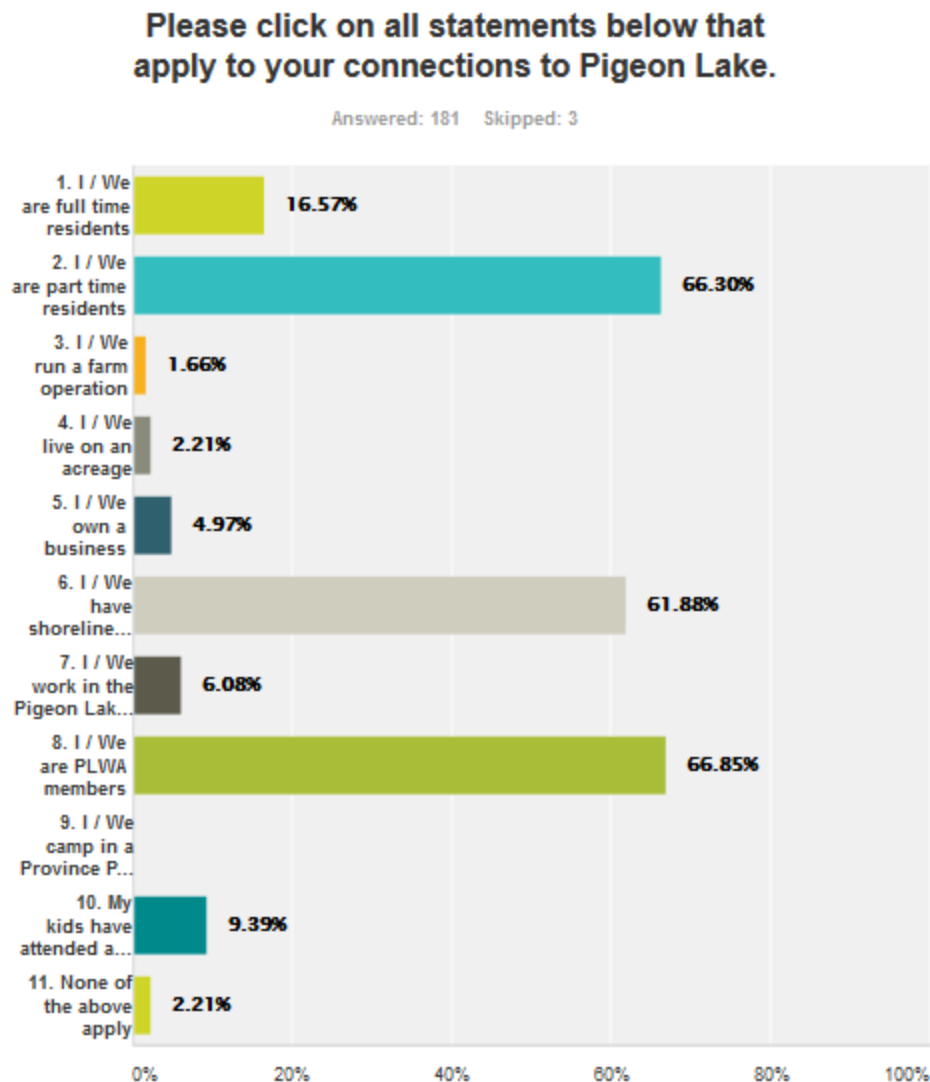


Figure 3: Responders Connections to the Lake

## What We Heard

This summary combines the survey responses and input from the two Public Engagement Sessions held in July. (Note: A third public engagement session was held in August focusing solely on the Model Land Use Bylaw and that will be reported on after more is done to get more input on that topic.) Various questions, suggestions and comments also arose through the informal discussions that took place at the meetings. Comments from the key survey questions are listed in **Appendix C – Survey Comments**. Recorded input from the **Public Engagement Input can** be found in **Appendix D**.

Many people expressed **appreciation** and **encouragement** for the work being undertaken. A few examples from the survey are:

*“You are making a difference. Your work is crucial.”*

*“I am very impressed with your efforts to date, and look forward to learning from you.”*

*“Thank you for doing a necessary, frustrating job on all of our behalf. It is appreciated.”*

## Overall Plan Support

Survey respondents were asked, **“Do you support the creation of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan?”**

As Figure 4 shows a very strong mandate to go ahead:

- 87.16 % fully support, and
- 10.69 % Somewhat support the creation of a Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan.

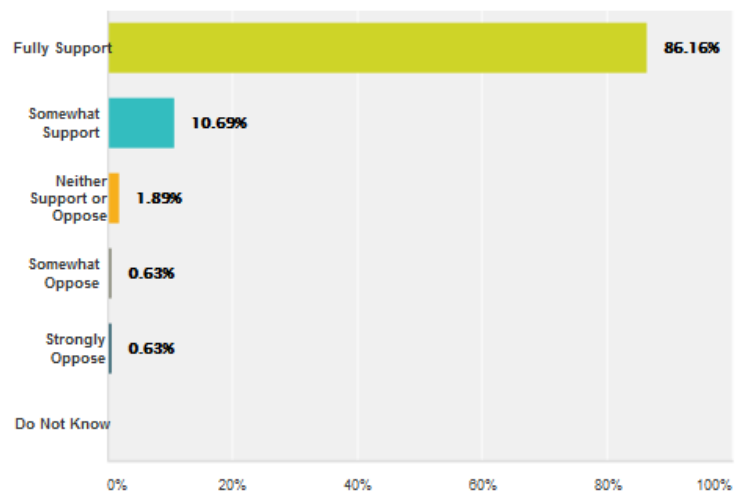


Figure 4: Support for the Creation of the PLWMP

## Level of Support for Key PLWMP TOR Components

Each of the key PLWMP Terms of Reference components received strong support.

### Support for the PLWMP Goal

The goal of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan is to improve the watershed's natural environment and water quality by recommending action-oriented watershed policies and best practices that support the long-term health, protection and restoration of the watershed.

Survey respondents were asked if they support this goal.

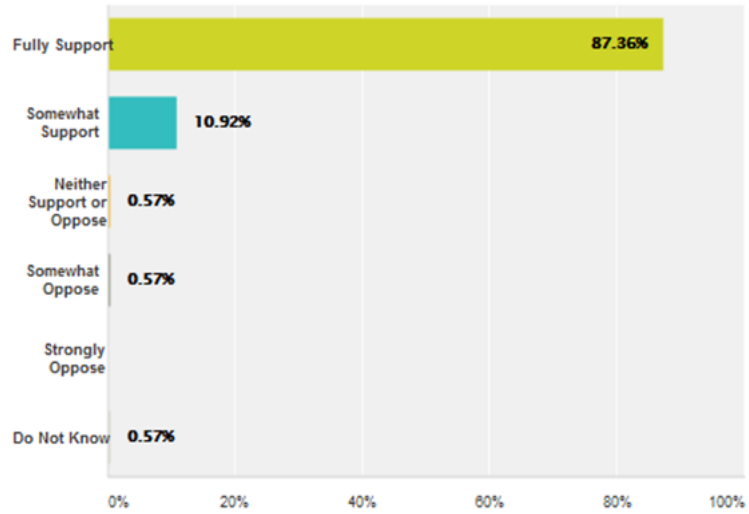


Figure 5: PLWMP Goal Support

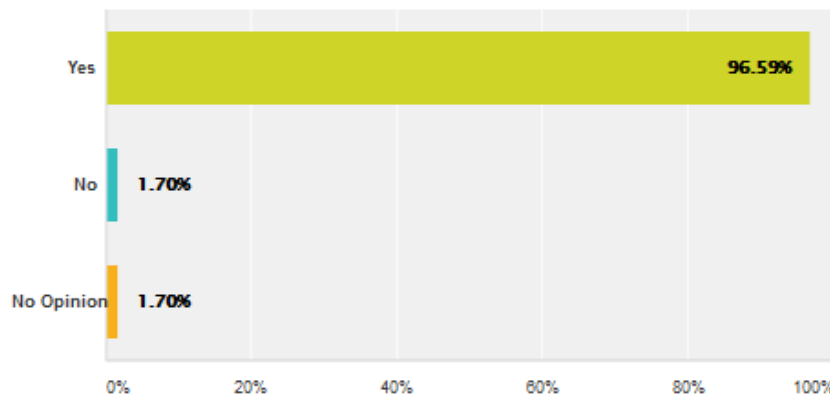
As Figure 5 shows, 87.36% fully support and 10.92% somewhat support the goal.

### Support for the PLWMP Process

Depending on the topic undertaken, the committee will work through the following types of steps:

1. Collect the most current science on the topic
2. Research what is working elsewhere
3. Collect watershed community members' concerns and considerations on the topic
4. Draft beneficial practice recommendations for individuals, regulators and the PLWA including, as appropriate, regulations, education, communications and implementation considerations.
5. Present the recommendations for what will be done; the why, how and by whom, and to attain feedback from the watershed community and other stakeholders
6. Finalize and communicate the recommendations

When asked if they agreed with this process, 96.59% of survey respondents said yes (see Figure 6).



The support for the process is very definite.

Figure 6: Support for the PLWMP Process

Almost everyone answered the PLWMP process question and almost everyone supported the process. Survey comments included:

*“Concentrate efforts in key areas, and take one step at a time.”*

*“The module approach seems to offer an opportunity to show and measure progress. Property owners around the lake support and are anxious for carefully researched action.”*

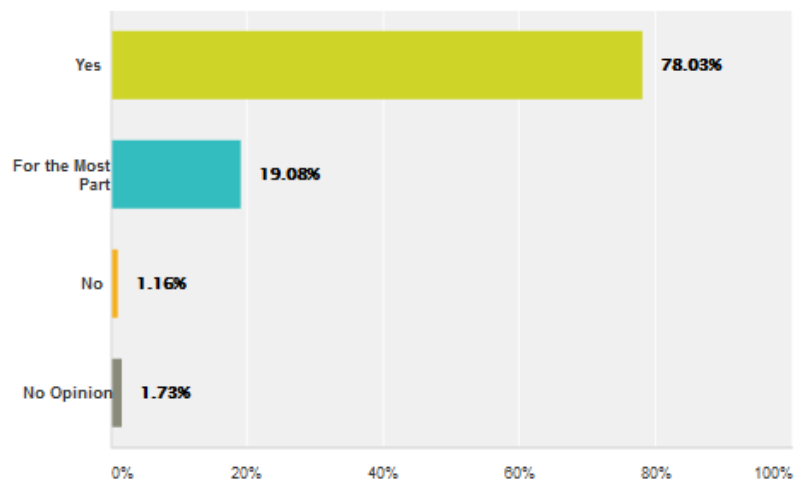
*“The lake is a beautiful place that we would like to see preserved for our children and grandchildren. We support the scientific action based approach to ensuring the long term sustainable health of Pigeon Lake.”*

### Support for the PLWMP’s Guiding Principles

Survey respondents were asked if they agreed with the PLWMP’s guiding principles, which are outlined below

1. Be action oriented
2. Not delay current initiatives of the PLWA or local governments
3. Deliver plan components in modules (topics) that will promote early implementation.
4. Rely on an adaptive management approach (incorporates new information when it becomes available) in which actions are based on the best available evidence.
5. Engage stakeholders throughout the plan development

Figure 7: Support for the PLWMP Guiding Principles



As Figure 7 shows, 78.03 % of respondents agreed, and 19.08 % agreed "for the most part" with these PLWMP’s guiding principles.

## Topic Prioritization Debate

A number of people found the topics difficult. A few survey respondents stated that the topics prioritization was beyond them:

*“Just picking one is impossible.”*

*“They are all important.”*

*“not sure what is the priority”*

One leader at the Leaders Advisory Session gave this feedback:

*“Personally, I look to the PLWA to prioritize these initiatives based on impact/effort/do ability etc. I have no expertise in this area but I have the ability to help make these things happen.”*



Despite the difficulty people in both the public engagement sessions and on the survey said it was to determine which topics should be given the highest priority, many people shared thoughtful considerations for which topics they decided should be undertaken sooner. These considerations included which topics would:

- have the greatest impact on improving the water quality;
- be best for the prevention of further contamination of the lake;
- be most urgently needed for the lake;
- gain the most buy-in / avoid property interference / be easiest to implement;
- be most cost effective; and,
- not require enforcement.

Suggestions from all sources about additional topics, or subtopics to be incorporated, when possible, into the current topics, included:

- Future development
- Lake muck control and removal
- Removal of natural vegetation
- Invasive species
- Road management: oiling roads/salt/grading policies/chemicals used to control dust/ice controls
- Enforcement of by-laws
- Lake level
- Declining property values
- ATV's (all-terrain vehicles): land degradation, noise, etc.
- Oil and Gas: abandoned well sites, contaminated areas (old gas stations), fracking in the watershed.
- Sewage: open discharge
- Appropriate setbacks
- Garbage dumps
- Fish: cease lake stocking/ increase commercial fishing
- Septic fields/enforcement

Given the input from all sources, the three topics identified as priorities from the Leaders Advisory Session were confirmed by the watershed community:

- Storm/Surface Water Management
- Riparian/Shoreline Restoration and Management
- Land Conservation/Protecting Priority Landscapes

In addition, there is strong encouragement for an additional two topics to be included to the priority list:

- Agriculture Best Practices
- Land Development Practices

People would like to see the PLWMP working with the Agricultural Community in the Pigeon Lake watershed to help support and ensure that the use of best agriculture practices; and to guide Land Development beyond 800 metres from the lake.

## Education & Regulations

Figure 9 shows the results from the survey question: As many recommendations and changes are implemented for the health of the lake and its watershed, where should the emphasis between regulating and/or educating to bring about these changes be?

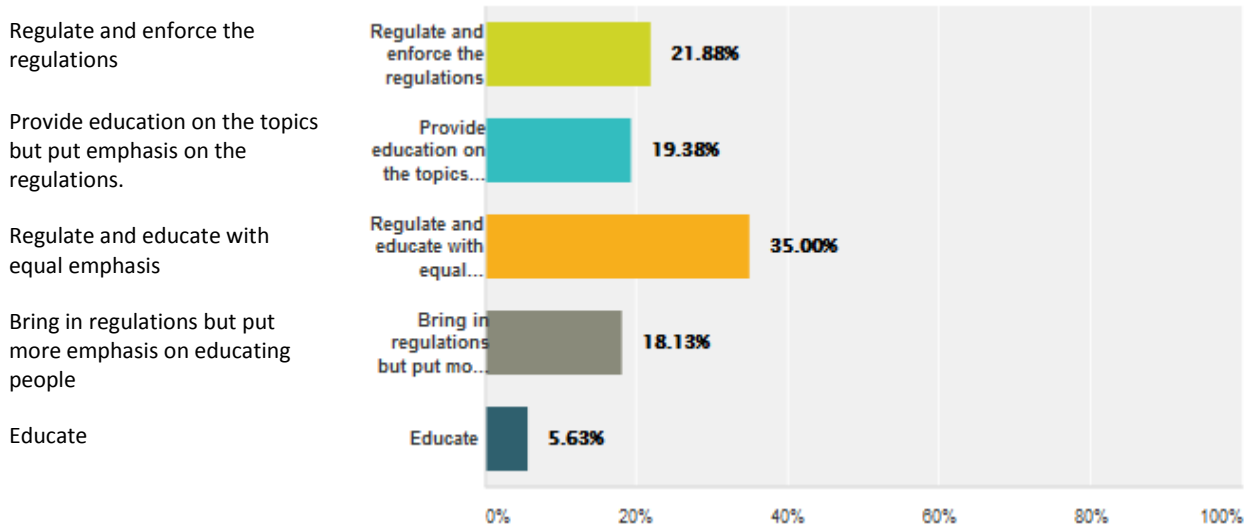


Figure 8: Education &/or Regulations

This survey results indicates that there is a strong desire to bring in and enforce regulations.

The question of where to put the emphasis when it comes to regulation and/or education generated a number of thoughtful comments, even from some people who did not answer the question.

Survey comments from people who selected **Regulate and Enforce** (21.88%) included:

*"I believe the education component has been available for years; it's time to start enforcing the regulations."*

*"Regulations without enforcement are a waste of time. aka BP, pipeline safety, speed limits."*

Comments from people who selected **Provide education on the topics best practices but put the emphasis on the regulations** included:

*"It is essential if we wish to save what we have and possibly reverse the damage, that better legislation is crafted, and enforced. We also must make our citizens aware and motivate them through education to demand that their councillors, MLA's and MP's do what is right."*

*"Both education and regulation are important because people are much more likely to accept regulation if they've been educated on the reasons. However, education can take a long time and regulation cannot wait until everyone is onside."*



Survey comments from a person who selected **Regulate and educate with equal emphasis**:

*“Experience surely shows us that education on its own is unlikely to succeed”*  
*“... Have the legislation/regulation, then educate and ENFORCE - all in combination. Experience shows that the timely combination of these three elements results in societal change.”*

Survey comments from people who selected **Bring in regulations but put more emphasis on educating people** included:

*“We can begin to be bit more forceful with people now. If we wait much longer the struggle will just get more difficult.”*  
*“Regulations help to clarify and establish why a practice should be followed. But, societal change does not happen without awareness and education. People will contravene any and all regulations they believe are not in their own self-interest.”*

Survey comments from people who selected **Educate** included:

*“The problem with regulations is that they need to be realistic, those who wish to regulate back to a time when there were no residences are fooling themselves.”*  
*“I do not see regulations as a priority because I do not see an authority that could govern the regulations.”*  
*“Education is key, however, there needs to be some bylaws/regulations that will protect the land/water for future generations. We need to leave a legacy for those who, hopefully, can enjoy the land in years to come.”*

The PLWMP Committee heard concerns in the Leaders Session that while enforceable regulations may be needed; enforcing them can be a very real challenge for Councils. Some observations and/or proof are necessary to be able to enforce regulations. Even when at the lake, municipal councillors are not to act as bylaw officers (this is prevented by provisions of the Municipal Government Act, as enforcement is the purview of administration), nor do Summer Villages feel that they have the money required to pay for the effective enforcement of bylaws. These are some of the challenges that municipalities face when looking to bring in enforceable bylaws.

To encourage people to consider the challenge regulations present to municipalities and to be able to provide some constructive feedback and supported recommendations and to the municipalities, people were asked: If you believe regulations are necessary, please comment on how compliance can best be encouraged? Ninety-three comments were made.

72.5% of the survey responders want some combination of clear bylaws/regulations and education. As with the survey comment below, many responders want people to know that actions for the lake are to be taken seriously.

*“Unfortunately money talks i.e. stiff fines PLUS a visual show, on the part of the perp, of restitution.”*

A number of survey responders made comments about using inspectors/wardens to carry out inspections, random checks and monitoring programs to ensure compliance with regulations such as fertilizer restrictions or septic tank requirements. The most frequently cited suggested method of dealing with non-compliance was to fine property owners.

Survey comments included a number suggesting that the community be more involved, reporting people who they know to be violators. A half dozen people believe that some sort of public humiliation or peer pressure should be used (for example, publishing names or placing a sign on lawns stating the impact of fertilizers on the health of the lake).

Other responses suggested that we would get further with positive actions such as “proud signage” and actions/examples showcasing the use of beneficial management practices.

Another repeated notion expressed in the survey is that measurement, monitoring and inspect to prevent and/or support the enforcement of regulations. *“What gets measured gets done.”*

Suggested tools included:

- Fines
- Bans or a type of sanction
- Have an “anonymous tip line”
- That municipalities, as part of the annual property taxes, present regulations, explain why it is important and direct people to resources
- That municipalities have people fill in surveys
- That communications be used such as on-going emails, simple reminders, Do’s and Don’ts, acceptable alternatives, pamphlets, posters and messages on community boards, and other public communication avenues

## **Other considerations voiced by the watershed that have been heard.**

### **Concern and a Sense of Urgency**

Leaders indicated a moderate to high level of urgency and a high level of concern and sense of urgency was evident both in comments from people who came to the events and in unsolicited comments throughout the survey. Here are a few survey examples:

*“Walk around the lake along the shoreline and you will understand the destruction of natural habitat and the lack of lake respect.”*

*“Watershed stakeholders need to understand that restoration and protection of our lake is essential and cannot be delayed.”*

*“Take some immediate actions in unison with the long term plans...”*

*“We must not only encourage but demand legislation to save the lake”.*

## Effective Communications

Communications were cited in various forms at the public engagement events and showed in survey comments for various questions. Communications must be taken into consideration throughout the process. Information overload was mentioned at the leaders' session and a few comments on the survey highlight the importance of the role, effectiveness and accuracy of information.

*"Communicating with those within and who care about the Watershed is another key function..."*

*"Better communication with non-waterfront stakeholders, e.g. landowners in the watershed. Encourage Counties and Municipalities to keep landowners informed about current, proposed and new regulations and recommendations."*

*"I have heard [an elected official] confused about use of fertilizers with nitrogen and not providing correct info - so some people are defending its use."*

*"Communicating is key."*

## PLWMP Participation

Many people do not understand the range of representatives who are participating in the PLWMP process. Some of these people need specific assurance that municipalities are involved, as there are concerns that without them the work will not make a difference for Pigeon Lake.

*"We need a "champion of the cause" with some influence to come on board - municipal and/or provincial based."*

*"The PLWMP must work closely with the Provincial and regional Governments. It will not be possible for our organization to go it alone."*

## Conclusions

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) Steering Committee can, with confidence, draw a number of conclusions from what was heard at the Annual Leaders Pigeon Lake Advisory Events, from the voices through PLWMP Public Engagement Sessions and the PLWMP Survey #1: Are We On Track?

In addition to actions by the municipalities, are a significant number of voices from the watershed, with whose support we can engage more people from the watershed in the PLWMP process.

The specific conclusions drawn are:

1. **There is a supported mandate to create the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan.** While the PLWMP process has been moving ahead, the Steering Committee can move ahead with confidence in the support they have for the creation of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan.
2. **The PLWMP Terms of Reference (TOR) can be finalized.** While a few minor modifications of the PLWMP TOR were brought to light, the PLWMP Terms of Reference can be finalized as key components of the plan (goal, process, principles) received strong support.
3. The Steering Committee needs to ensure that **topic processes are followed** as appropriate for each topic. It is important to many that the work on each topic must be appropriately grounded in science, research and/or expertise, as well as, there must be opportunities for community members to give voice to their concerns and considerations, related to the topic, and then have an opportunity to give feedback to the draft recommendations.
4. **Clear topic priorities.** The three Leaders Advisory Session priority topics: **Storm / Surface Water; Riparian Restoration;** and **Priority Landscapes Conservation** resonated with many in the watershed community with the addition of two additional priorities; working with the Agricultural Community, and Land Development in the Watershed beyond the 800 metres from the shoreline.
5. For appropriate topics, **enforceable regulations supported by education** are seen to be key by many of the responders; therefore the possibility of bylaws must be explored for each appropriate topic.
6. Many survey respondents are very appreciative of the work being done on behalf of everyone.
7. A number of people are interested and engaged, at least at the level of being informed and responding to surveys.

8. **Sense of urgency.** There is a sense of urgency amongst people in the watershed to have the plan move forward as fast as possible, alongside the on-going implementation of concrete actions.
9. The planning has the support of a smart, considerate watershed community as evidenced by so many thoughtful comments and insightful suggestions.
10. **Engagement:** As resources and imagination allow, increased efforts need to be made to engage more people, especially people from poorly represented groups in the watershed. Finding more ways to make everyone feel welcome is important.
11. **Communications are key:** The effective implementation of actions and the change of behaviour, need effective communications so recommendations and implementation strategies will seek to incorporate this type of expertise.
  - To be effective the communications must address the doubts people have, stress the need and value of the plan, and the potential difference.
  - The range of representatives engaged and demonstrations of support from municipalities must be communicated more fully.
12. **Focus:** The recommendations should include some consideration for the strategic focus of all efforts.
13. We must work to **keep the engagement and momentum building** so that people and municipalities will implement many of the recommendations. This needs to include information to help more people believe that the work is critical for the health of the lake.

#### 14. Watershed Community Support Critical

The watershed has many neighbourhoods, many people connected to the lake in different ways. In order to achieve as much as possible, as soon as possible, everyone needs to understand they are an important piece of this work. More people are to assist with the effort was started by the PLWA last year, to reach out to, and connect with more people. The watershed community's help is needed to inform people about events, to encourage people to join in the opportunities to hear, learn and share in this significant undertaking. Goals are: to get more people engaged; to spread the information generated by the plan; to get more people shaping the recommendations; and to have people ready to advocate for and to support their implementation.

## Next Steps

### The PLWMP Terms of Reference:

The PLWMP Terms of Reference will be finalized and accepted by the PLWMP Steering Committee and the PLWA Board who have the governance role.

Highlights of this report will be sent to all PLWMP and PLWA members and subscribers and links to the full report posted on both the PLWMP and PLWA websites.

### Next Steps Current Topic:

#### Cosmetic Fertilizers and Soil Management

Work To Date: The cosmetic fertilizers topic has had the research complete and a presentation has been made of many of the research highlights. It is about the science of what feeds the algae, and the evidence of what regulations and frequency of education has made the most difference to change behaviours over time.

Next Steps: The survey step to share the basics of the research and to collect community concerns and considerations is underway. As soon as the committee gets this feedback they will review their draft recommendations for individuals, municipalities and the PLWA. The results of these steps will be circulated.

#### Model Land Use Bylaw & Soil Management Topic:

Work to Date: The Draft Model Land Use Bylaw for land 800 metres and closer to the lake, has been presented in a public engagement event, (the afternoon of the AGM, the PLWMP brought in Judy Stewart to aid in its review). It is now available for each of the municipalities to review and provide feedback to that Topic Committee.

Next Steps: A survey to gather further input will be undertaken in the early spring.

### Next Priority Topics:

Five priority topics have been determined. The order in which they will be tackled will be determined as the plan unfolds, taking into consideration the current situation, the need for and availability of resources; levels of municipal support and more. The five are:

- Storm/Surface Water Management
- Riparian/Shoreline Restoration and Management
- Land Development beyond 800 metres from the lake
- Riparian/Shoreline Restoration and Management
- Land Conservation/ Protecting Priority Landscapes

**The Next Priority Topic:**

Based on what the Steering Committee heard and the current opportunities to access critical competencies, will be **Storm and Surface Water**, to determine where and what mitigation options, based on the current in-depth water assessment data, are needed for places to manage the water runoff and reduce the contaminants going into the lake. This could include diversions, collection and settling ponds and/or adding areas of soil and vegetation capable of absorbing, filtering and slowing the release of water into the lake.

Next Steps: The Steering Committee will begin to create the Terms of Reference for this committee and the recruitment of members with competency in this area has already begun.

Working with the Agriculture community is of interest to many of the responders. The Steering Committee has determined that this work will require a foundation of understanding, before we can join with members in this community to create a mutually beneficial agenda for the health of the lake. The foundation will include:

- Learning about the watershed farmers connections to the lake,
- Learning what they have already done (e.g. many farm operators may have taken the Environmental Program offered a few years ago),
- Determining available resources (such as the industry's own beneficial agricultural management practices).

**Additional actions**, incorporating the ideas and feedback received will include:

1. On-going updates to all PLWMP and PLWA members and subscribers
2. Engagement strategies to reach more people
3. Fundraising
4. Work on effective communications
5. Enhancing Municipal relations

## **Appendix A – List of Acronyms**

AARD:	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD)
AESRD:	Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development
AHS:	Alberta Health Services
ALMS:	Alberta Lake Management Society
APLM:	Association of Pigeon Lake Management
ATPR	Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
COW:	County of Wetaskiwin
PLWA:	Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
PLWMP:	Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan
TOR:	Terms of Reference



## Appendix B – Annual Leadership Advisory Session Invitation List

### 4 First Nation Bands:

Invited: Each of the Bands (Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana, and Samson Cree), were invited via two emails and one phone call to the Consultation Coordinators extending invitations to the Band Coordinators and up to four Chiefs and Elders per band.

Planned: The Ermineskin, Louis Bull and Montana Bands all planned to attend.

Attended: No one attended due to the weather.

### Counties:

Invited: Invitations were sent to the County of Wetaskiwin and to Leduc County.

Planned: 4 planned to attend.

Attended: The two local area councillors attended. Others did not attend due to weather.

### Summer Villages:

Invited: Invitations were sent to all Summer Village elected officials individually, via their Chief Administrative Officers, and through the APLM. Most Mayors were called and encouraged to have as many representatives as possible attend.

Planned: Argentia, Crystal Springs, Grandview, Itaska, Poplar Bay, MaMeO and Norris Beach planned to attend.

Attended: 8 elected officials attended from the Summer Villages of: Crystal Springs, Golden Days, Grandview, Itaska, Poplar Bay, MaMeO and Norris Beach.

### Provincial Staff:

Invited: Invitations were sent to Alberta Health Services Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development; Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Staff (Fish and Wildlife, Central Lake limnologist, and the Pigeon Lake Planner)

Planned: 2 planned to attend.

Attended: The planner attended.

### Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce

Invited: An invitation was sent to the Administrator, President and Past President. A phone call was made to the Past President

Planned: 1 Planned to attend.

Attended: No one attended due to a conflict.

### Lake & Watershed Associations

Invited: ALMS, BRWA, and the NSWA were all invited to attend.

Planned: 3 Planned to attend.

Attended: 1 Attended

### PLWA

Planned: 8 of the 10 Directors planned to attend.

Attended: 7 Attended

## Appendix C – Leadership Advisory Session Feedback

### Pigeon Lake Leaders Advisory Session – Correlated Comments

19 Pigeon Lake leaders and influencers attended the 2013 session. Participants were encouraged to fill out comment sheets on the session and each of the six topics presented and discussed. Note: All comments that have had some action taken on it has been asterisked \*.

Very Satisfied - VS, Somewhat Satisfied - SS, Somewhat Dissatisfied - SD, Very Dissatisfied - VD

#### 1. Overall satisfaction -

- a. Value of the Annual Leaders Advisory Session: VS = 78% and SS = 22%
- b. Value of information provided: VS = 68% and SS = 32%
- c. Your ability to provide input: VS = 89% and SS = 11%

Some comments:

- a) As more conclusions to projects and reports are issued, the information will be helpful.
- b) Keep up good work/ Keep going.
- c) Desire the First Nations, business interests, developers and industry to join in. \*

#### 2. PL Watershed Management Plan Terms of Reference: VS = 81% and SS = 19%

Some comments:

- a) Runoff, storm/surface should be next item or close to it. (Involves fertilizers, riparian, etc.) ... the large pollution is developed through the seasonal runoff toward the lake.
- b) [Topic] list is complete.
- c) Address priority landscapes; conservancy needed for a watershed as limited as PL's.
- d) I look to the PLWA to prioritize these initiatives based on impact/effort/do ability etc. I have no expertise but I have the ability to help make these things happen.
- e) Tough to prioritize topics because all topics are very important - very inter-connected
- f) Add History to the topics – “if you have no history – you have no future”
- g) Good ideas on trees, lawns, taking care of yards.
- h) Spend money on an expert to help communications make the changes necessary; focus on impacts of behaviours - ... be part of the solution – by ... \*
- i) Priority is determining “policy” versus “bylaw” - Suggest this question put on survey.\*

#### 3. PLWMP – Model Land Use Bylaw: : VS = 75% and SS = 25%

Comments:

- a) Common land use bylaws in SV's very NB.
- b) Expedite getting the bylaw prepared to the SV's
- c) Presentation at APLM in June is a good plan \*
- d) Our work cannot be forced through the various jurisdictions – these are significant tasks for the counties and SVs. The role will however be supportive and assist for better outcomes as they are visited independently by each jurisdiction
- e) Do not underestimate the challenges surrounding the adoption of this bylaw around the lake.

- f) Very much looking forward to the rollout of proposed bylaw provisions and any process information and assistance for Summer Village to move forward on.
- g) Surprized at how open municipalities are to utilize it.
- h) Waiting for last draft & public engagement.
- i) How do we move forward?
- j) It is a shame that some SV's won't stop their process to wait for this.
- k) Good work

4. PLWMP Topic – Cosmetic Fertilizer BMP: VS = 70% and SS = 30%

Comments included:

- a) Good to hear fertilizer industry changing make-up (0 phos) / If you must use fertilizer - no phos
- b) I hope we can get people to change to best practices - should not use fertilizers anywhere near the shore area where it could seep back into the lake.
- c) Address the seasonal breakdown of natural vegetation providing nitrogen & phosphates going into the watershed.
- d) Find ways to reward good behaviours.
- e) Policy vs bylaw / Age old problem: who enforces?
- f) Bylaw better than education
- g) Should be a total ban on cosmetic fertilizers enforced by a bylaw – even itself sends a message. Enforcement very difficult and a key piece of puzzle.
- h) Common enforcement / Find a way to enforce as a larger watershed, no one SV or county has to be the bad guy.
- i) Each municipality should pass a restrictive bylaw which permits enforcement based on ratepayers' complaints.
- j) I still favour bylaws even if enforcement is problematic. It draws a line on a behaviour which is an obvious part of the problem and I believe the majority of residents they expect it.
- k) I often hear from people – why can't this simple step be taken? It makes us all look like ditherers.

5. PLWMP Engagement Strategy: VS = 86% and SS = 14%

Comments included:

- a) Must attempt to involve younger people \*
- b) Use social networks (Facebook, tweeting, etc.)
- c) Create an urgency to attend AGM
- d) From a SV perspective, we need a focused targeted strategy. Information overload can be overwhelming & result in no action / frustration. Get 1-2 changes in behaviour to take root.
- e) Perhaps a detailed stakeholder needs analysis - different groups have different needs then can customize messages - one size does not fit all.
- f) Make sure it meets AESRD consultation process and satisfies all requirements.
- g) Request meetings with community groups (Chamber of Commerce) and Lakedell Ag Society. \*
- h) Should be a major focus in 2013/14 \*
- i) Should PLWA nominations committee try to recruit councillors? \*
- j) Looks good – have marked AGM in for August – will be a mouth piece for the PLWMP process, where I can – time a limiting factor – will try to fit in future public sessions & other activities.
- k) Provide information to each municipality to include on their websites (for resident access). \*
- l) Make it very clear who ALL the partners are, separate from funders. \*

6. APLM Options Sub-Committee: VS = 71% SS = 14% SD = 14%

Comments included:

- a) Investigate existing studies
- b) Summer Village websites, residents are notified when new postings / changes are made – would draw them to the information - focus on “actions” with public – what will be done vs what has been looked at. Avoid confusion.
- c) APLM working together hand in hand with PLWA and PLWMP. Good synergies developing.
- d) Need to know there is scientific expertise was applied to each sub-committee.
- e) **Cost:** I will have to see the reports. I expect that any option that might suggest a beneficial impact will have a sizeable price tag. / Cost and benefit can be quantified or estimated but both are subjective in relation to each other. / The economic research is pivotal in helping to weigh the balance of “cost” vs. “benefit”
- f) Caution - wait for the nutrient budget before jumping to actions – be strategic in \$\$ and effort.
- g) Provide links to reports on PLWA website

7. Any additional comments?

1. My first “Leaders” meeting. A very good process to continue the interaction between various levels of government and groups.
2. It was short and to the point. The right people were there.
3. Overall an excellent meeting & exchange of ideas.
4. It is fantastic to have so many leaders in one room
5. Next time have a resolution to vote on or come away with consensus i.e. (TOR)

### Appendix D: Survey Topic Responses & Comments

Table 2: Eight potential next topics that were presented in each of the sessions and the survey. They are presented below in the order that people wanted to have them undertaken. The high priorities from the Leadership Session are highlighted in yellow.

Topic & % as top priority	Explanation	Public Engagement Comments/ Considerations					Leaders Session Considerations + Other Comments
		Effectiveness /Potential for +’ve Impacts	Ease to Implement	Cost Effectiveness	Property Interference	Education &/or Enforcement Required	
<b>Agriculture Best Practices 26.32 %</b>	A range of best practices to ensure that impacts from agriculture in the watershed are minimized.						AB Ag has Best Ag Mgmt Practices. Maybe this should be about learning about the good that farm operators are already doing, while also supporting what else needs to be done. Need to work with the Ag community. 102 responses cited it should be added to the priority topics.
<b>Storm / Surface Water Management 19.74%</b>	For places that need measures to manage water runoff and reduce the contaminants going into the lake. This could include diversions, collection and settling ponds and/or adding areas of soil and vegetation capable of absorbing, filtering and slowing the release of water into the lake.	✓✓✓	✓✓	good ROI high cost	✓		Could be a natural follow-up to much of the in-depth water assessment work done in 2012/13. Many comments related to helping to address contaminants from different operations in the watershed; others that the stormwater work will overlap with land conservation protection and riparian areas work, so should be done first. May require “more time to organize and finance”.
<b>Riparian / Shoreline Restoration and Management 17.11%</b>	Healthy shorelines are very important: They support erosion control, and filter contaminants out of the water as it moves through the watershed into the lake. Most living things in and around the lake need food, shelter and nesting sites for birds, and wildlife corridors. Work would plan for where and how to restore shorelines.	✓✓✓	✓✓ Easy for land Owners	✓	Possible push back by owners	Education Enforcement	This topic would be visible, get people involved; out with boots and spades, learning what is necessary for a healthy riparian area. Some responders believe there is more riparian damage every year and that much is caused by approved developments. Need to protect nature: Wildlife/Birds/Enjoyment
<b>Land Development Practices 14.47%</b>	A guide of practices for land use development throughout the watershed beyond the 800 meters from the shoreline which is addressed in the Model Land Use Bylaw.						106 responses cited that this should be added to the high priority topics. Some comments referred to a concern that the watershed is already overdeveloped.

Continued ...

Topic & % as top priority	Explanation	Public Engagement Comments/Considerations (n)					Leaders Session Considerations + Other Comments
		Effectiveness / Potential for +ve Impacts	Implement Ease	Cost Effectiveness	Property Interference	Education &/or Enforcement Required	
<b>Land Conservation/ Protecting Priority Landscapes</b> 9.87%	Healthy watersheds retain a % of natural areas for the services they provide: peat land, critical plant and animal habitat (for traditional medicines, endangered species). These areas often collect surface water runoff, and/or have culturally historical significance. This topic would identify and prioritize some of these areas; and describe how we could best protect them (land conservancies, purchasing, easements, etc.).	(8)	(3) Least resistance	(1) Could be expensive			Land prices are currently low so possibilities of protecting key areas may be timely. Do not need by-laws to do this. Group ownership of land – likely seen favourably. As time passes more land is being used so land conservation is a pressing need. Need a plan for land conservation before development makes changes impossible.
<b>Stewardship</b> 7.24%	A planned approach for what, why and how to get the watershed community to step up its stewardship practices.						
<b>Oil and Gas Sector</b> 3.29%	This topic would produce recommendations for oil & gas in the watershed & ensuring best practices.						
<b>New Pigeon Lake Atlas</b> 1.97%	Up to date info on PL and it's watershed. Could include geographical, biological and other watershed features; historical, current social and economic info.						First we need to have good baseline information, which is why we need a Pigeon Lake atlas.



## Appendix E: Survey Responses & Comments

A sample of comments have beyond what is in the body of the report are listed in this section.

**Question 12 and Question 13 generated 129 comments.** The questions are:

- “Regulations and/or Education As many recommendations and changes are implemented for the health of the lake and its watershed: Where should the emphasis be between regulating and/or educating to bring about the changes?” and,
- If you believe regulations are necessary please comment on how compliance best be encouraged?

**30 Survey responses talked of the importance of communications, reminders and education.**

These people thought that the messages must be stepped up, either as a way to encourage action or as a precursor to enforcement. A sample of the survey comments:

### Staged Communications

1. *First of all comes education so that everyone understands the reasons for the regulations. This needs to be broadly advertised, explained and communicated by all the municipalities involved by letter or email”.*
2. *Through education but if individuals still do not comply then you need to enforce the rules and then steward the results. What gets measured gets done.*

### Positive Communications /Encouragement

1. *Proud signage: We are a phosphorous free community!*
2. *Communicate, educate in a positive way. Stressing regulation will set up a negative environment that will 'turn people off'. The Watershed is developing a great positive reputation and needs cultivate that, and continue to build relationships between and with stakeholders.*
3. *First, by education (learn how to approach and educate in a positive and productive way)*
4. *Give credit/publicity to examples of best practices.*

### Public Debate

5. *Good public debate while the regulation is being formulated. Once a regulation is passed, communicate the regulation to all concerned.*

### Adequate & Informative Communication

6. *The counties should send our yearly newsletters with the tax assessment, reminded residents about the regulations and the penalties for non-compliance.*
7. *Notify all landowners about the regulations and penalties if they are not followed by mail, as well as email and whatever public information sources (newspapers, etc.) are available. Everyone relies on websites to spread info, but people do not consult websites if they are not already interested in a topic.*

8. ... possibly as part of our annual property taxes the regulations can be presented with additional information re: cause and effect. How do our actions impact the land and water.
9. Ongoing emails, simple reminders, the DO's and DON'T's for protecting the land and the water.

#### Strategic Communications

10. Placing signs in front of peoples property that have perfect lawns about the damage fertilizers have on the health of the lake.
11. It might be best to educate alternative measures for fertilization (if there are any) along with the regulation and give a period of evaluation

27 survey comments such as the ones below, talked about bylaws/regulations and the role of regulators, the need for regulators to find ways to enforce, and the different levels of regulators that must work together to enforce regulations.

#### Enforcement

1. We all know that regulations need to be enforced if not there is no sense having them.
2. Regulations are always very worthwhile ONLY IF ENFORCED SYSTEMATICALLY, Do it!
3. We have worked very hard, as has the government to try education. It won't work without strict enforcement.
4. Fines for non-compliance is "tough-love" but effective.

#### Combined Efforts of the all levels of regulators

6. All legal incorporated entities like counties , bands & summer villages must contribute to this goal
7. Must be total buy-in and commitment from all stakeholder groups (counties, SV's, Province etc.)
8. All regulators through legislation at all levels of jurisdiction: provincial and federal
9. All the governing bodies must be brought together and agreement established that all will work to achieve the same standard of compliance. ... the governing bodies must take responsibility for ensuring compliance, levying penalties if necessary.
10. Suggest you not only encourage, but demand legislation to save Pigeon lake, and aggressive enforcement, at all levels of jurisdiction.

26 survey responses mentioned of fines; fines and warnings and other staged approaches resulting in fines. Fines were the most frequently cited suggestion.

#### Sizeable Fines

1. Large fines. For non-compliance incremental fines for each infraction.
2. Hefty fines. Maybe a warning with education but there really is no excuse for polluting the lake

#### Staged Approach

3. Encouragement, followed by warnings, followed by fines is gradual approach



4. *Regulations set a minimum guideline for behaviours and help some find a source as to what they should be doing.*
5. *Start with modest fines but full publication of the names of those who have violated the regulations. If peer pressure/ publicity does not work in three years, quadruple the fines.*

#### Who to Enforce

6. *Hire inspectors to view each property and make recommendations. The summer village council will follow-up that the [recommendations] are done or the landowner will be appropriately fined until they are done*
7. *More resources for inspection and enforcement and meaningful sanctions in appropriate cases*

#### Consistent Regulations

8. *The municipalities around the lake need to have the same regulations and those regs need to be enforced re: set back, chemical use, development plans etc...*

10 responses spoke of the necessary role for the community to step up and report violators; that a hotline should be available with a highly publicized number to call, and that people be encouraged to report potential offenders.

1. *Maybe implementing some sort of anonymous "report a bad neighbour" program would be beneficial.*
2. *I believe that a good portion of the population will voluntarily advise the proper authorities of people that are willingly breaking the rules.*
3. *Obvious observation (very green perfect grass), smells of toxic chemicals being applied, neighbours reporting serious abuse of land (flushing toilet water into lake, spraying chemicals on yard etc.)*

Some survey responses suggested that we need to measure, monitor and inspect to prevent and/or support the enforcement of regulations.

1. *Unfortunately, it is likely that monitoring and enforcement of the bylaws is the only way some people will comply.*
2. *Lead by initiating changes and monitor results to convince the public of the necessity for good practice*
3. *Fines for obvious offenders by soil sampling for fertilizer evidence as well as septic tank/out house testing for leakage. Fines would pay for sampling.*

A few people cited public humiliation to help make people comply.

1. *Warn people and, if no improvement, publicize names??*
2. *Public humiliation!*

**Some of the Survey's Responses to "Any Other Comments"?**

1. *For anything to change, we need to get everyone's co-operation. Education is key!*
2. *I do not own land in a waterfront area/ summer village & yet agree with much of the planning process. Those outside of the waterfront have no local voice if part of a large county.*
3. *How can people who don't have memberships be made more aware of events?*
4. *30 years ago we did not have blue-green algae and dead whitefish. It's late in the game now, but we need ... immediate measures and enforcements to remedy a eutrophic lake. This was well documented by Dr. Schindler's presentation 4-5 years ago at an annual meeting of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association.*
6. *Also has every property owner been notified about where our lake is heading?*
7. *The media coverage of blue green algae and algae in general is terrible. They look for problems and find them. The lake has been terrific this year and yet the only comment made was of a flare up ... It is irresponsible the way that the lakes in our area are portrayed.*
8. *Regulation should be done sparingly, with broad input from all stakeholders, and target areas that can really make a difference.*
9. *Have noticed people talking about perfect lawns in scathing manner so perhaps social controls will start working better. Have heard [one elected official ] confused about use of fertilizers with nitrogen and not providing correct info - so some people are defending its use.*
10. *We must be more forceful in our approach and tenacity and a little less political. [It] is not a political movement but an action oriented group driven by the needs of lake property owners and users.*
11. *Information and involvement of reliable consultants and resource personnel to heighten personal interest in supporting initiatives.*
12. *Should there be funding appeals for specific projects that would help restore the lake?*
13. *Have any recommendations been implemented so far? by whom / what group? Positive progress would be encouragement for all!*
14. *Can we compare the lake quality today vs when the PLWA started? Are things improving?*
16. *I have watched the watershed committee develop and am so impressed with the hard work, many hours and forward progress of the people involved - THANK YOU!*
17. *Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of our beloved Pigeon lake. As volunteers giving of your valuable time, I so commend you and sincerely hope your endeavours are successful.*
18. *Thank you to all of you who have worked so diligently on behalf of the community and those who love the lake.*
19. *You are making a difference. Your work is crucial. I have opted to become more involved and I have taken those steps already.*
20. *Keep up the good work! This is a great survey document!*
21. *Thanks for all your good work already. So often it's dedicated volunteers who get important stuff done in our communities.*

