

Moving Beyond Now

LIST OF ARTICLES

Volume 1: Water Management

Issue #1 (August, 2002)

"What Really Matters, Part 1: New Long-Term Water Rights"

Comparison of the matters and factors considered by provinces and states in western North America when granting long-term, usually permanent, water rights

"Can Chaos Theory Solve the Puzzles of Planning?"

Discussion of the guidelines for managing complex problems that can be gained from chaos theory including sensitivity to initial conditions, coping with uncertainty, understanding interactions, and eliminating randomness.

"Just the Same or Just Different: An Introduction to First Nations' Water Rights in the Prairie Region of Canada"

Summary of the unresolved issues surrounding First Nations' water rights.

"Measuring Two Cents' Worth: The Benefits and Hazards of Gauging Public Views on Issues"

Detailed assessment of the potential and pitfalls for public opinion surveys using the Alberta Government's *Water for Life* survey techniques as a case study.

"What is Planning All About Anyway?"

Discussion of the alternatives to and criteria for planning.

Issue #2 (May, 2003)

"What Really Matters, Part 2: Long-Term, Short-Term, and Changed Water Rights"

Continuation of the comparison of provinces and states in western North America, expanded to include short-term water rights, changes to purpose or location, inter-basin transfers, and export of water. Includes a ranking of jurisdictions in terms of legal requirements for protecting existing water rights and the aquatic environment.

"Aesop's Fables, Informed Consent, and Social Engineering: The Trouble With Risk Analysis"

Assessment of risk management which discusses, among other things, the concepts of "participatory victimization" and the "guiding hand" for free market transactions.

"Alberta's Draft Water Strategy: Watershed Proposal or Just More of the Same?"

Detailed analysis of the draft *Water Strategy* prepared by the Alberta Government in 2003, including how the *Strategy* compared to the views of the public.

"Matching Management Style With Public Views: The Case of Alberta's Water Strategy"

Evaluation of the draft *Water Strategy* in terms of how it meets the criteria for restrictive vs. inclusive management.

Supplement (December, 2003) "Alberta's Water Strategy: Watering Down Reality"

Commentary on the strengths and weaknesses of the final *Water Strategy* completed in November, 2003.

Issue #3 Evaluating Decision-Making (July, 2004)

"Civilized Ill-Will, Self-Evident Rationality, Faith-Based Consent, and Selfless Authoritarianism: Definitions of Decision-Making"

Discussion of different styles of decision-making, including the authoritarianism of experts.

"Traditional Water Management Decision-Making"

Examination of economic development and engineering philosophies to identify the core principles of traditional water management.

"Good Practice for Water Management Decision-Making"

Synthesis of the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams into a generic model of good practice for water management.

"A Framework for Evaluating Decision-Making in Water Management"

Comparison of different types of decision-making to create a method of identifying the appropriateness of each.

Issue #4 Evaluation of Planning and Decision-Making for Three Gorges Dam (August, 2004)**"Planning Predestination: The Decision to Build Three Gorges Dam"**

Detailed assessment of the planning for the Three Gorges Dam that highlights the roles inaction, ignorance, indulgence, and a belief in infallibility can play in decision-making.

Appendix "The Context for Water Management in China"

Overview of the existing water issues in China and the economic, social, and political factors that influence China's water management.

Issue #5 The Walkerton Tragedy (August, 2005)**"Indentured Servants, Proof of Innocence, and Mark Twain's Cat: Lessons from the Walkerton Tragedy"**

Description of the personal and regulatory failures leading to the Walkerton tragedy and an assessment of ways in which good governance can be achieved to ensure that those who are unreasonable or uninformed do not harm others.

Issue #6 Water Management in Alberta (November, 2005)**"Getting Ready for the Past: The *Water for Life* Strategy"**

Assessment of the progress in implementing the Alberta Government's *Water Strategy*.

"Planning to Fail: The South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan Phase 2"

Assessment of the draft water management plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin.

"Government Intervention vs. the Marketplace: The Special Areas Water Supply Project"

Discussion of the history of the Special Areas and the choice between government funded projects to shore up the economy and free-market solutions that will likely lead to further economic decline.

Commentary

Discussion of the need for a new kind of "socialism" in water management to fix the socialized water management we already have.

Issue #7 Some Aspects of Water Management Economics (March, 2008)**"The Irrational Economist and the Moral Decision-Maker: Building a Market for Environmental Value"**

Evaluation of "contingent valuation" to measure the economic value of environmental goods and services and an assessment of the barriers to using contingent valuation effectively.

"Fringe Benefits: Municipal Financial Assistance and Sustainability in Alberta"

Detailed analysis of federal and provincial grants to Alberta municipalities and the potential implications for achieving sustainability of the environment and society.

"Jumping the Shark in Space"

Review of Doreen Massey's book *For Space*.

Issue #8 The Status of the *Status Quo* (February, 2009)**"Strengthening the *Status Quo*: The Alberta Government's Land-Use Framework"**

Comprehensive evaluation of the *Land-use Framework* and how it compares to public views.

"Renewing the *Status Quo*: *Water for Life*: A Renewal"

Review of the possible reasons for renewing *Water for Life*, a comparison of *Water for Life*'s original and renewed principles, goals, outcomes, and actions, and identification of issues that continue to be ignored or receive little attention.

Volume 2: Calgary 2010**Issue #1 Financing Growth: Part 1 (September, 2010)****Analysis: "The End of the Sprawl Subsidy?"**

Review of the position of the development industry on the City's subsidy for new subdivisions.

Commentary: "Ending the Sprawl Subsidy Helps Us All," by Joe Ceci, former Alderman

The subsidy for new subdivisions has distorted the housing market and the money should instead be used in existing communities.

Issue #2 Financing Growth: Part 2 (September, 2010)**Analysis: "Is Financial Assistance to Alberta Municipalities Fair?"**

Updated analysis of federal and provincial grants to Alberta municipalities. Although federal grants to Alberta municipalities have kept pace with rising population and economic activity, provincial grants have not. As well, provincial grants to Calgary and surrounding municipalities – as measured on a per capita basis – have been far below what other municipalities have been given.

Commentary: "Provincial Funding Fails Fairness Test"

Calgarians need to elect a City Council that will work with other municipalities in the region to present a united front with the Province, convince the Province to no longer shortchange the region when handing out grants, and make sure grants are used for the common good, not just as another way to subsidize private interests.

Issue #3 Campaign Economics 101 (October, 2010)**Analysis: "What Can Voters Learn from Municipal Campaign Contributions?"**

Investigation into how much money was contributed by whom to candidates during Calgary's 2007 municipal election. Corporations, primarily from the real estate sector, provided three-quarters of campaign contributions. A small group of companies (8% of contributors) – again primarily from the real estate sector – accounted for 44% of all contributions.

Commentary: "Corporations and Questions: The Lessons of Campaign Finance"

In addition to the dominance of corporations in municipal campaign finance, there are many unanswered questions including can legal requirements on campaign contributions be enforced and are campaign contribution limits realistic.

Issue #4 Transportation Priorities (October, 2010)**Analysis: "Transportation Doesn't Pay Its Way"**

Canada-wide, revenue that might qualify as road user "fees" only provides a third of the direct cost of public road infrastructure. For Alberta, the estimate is that fees only cover a fifth of road costs. Calgary in 2009 received \$374 million in revenue from user fees, fuel taxes, and developer levies. The remaining \$580 million for transportation came from other sources: debt, property and business taxes, provincial taxes, etc. If urban sprawl continues as it has, the City will need an additional \$8.8 billion over the next sixty years to pay for the costs of expanding the road system beyond what a more compact city needs.

Commentary: "The SW Ring Road: Too Costly and Unnecessary," by Amy Lonsberry, Lakeview resident

The SW Ring Road would serve commuters who have made the choice to live a long distance from where they work. Subsidizing their lifestyle preferences, though, is neither a desirable nor proper use of our tax dollars. As well, the SW Ring Road will merely encourage more traffic, leading to the congestion that impedes the smooth flow of truck traffic. In the future, the Calgary region will require "unprecedented levels of growth in productivity" to maintain the prosperity we have enjoyed during the past four decades. Wasting money on the SW Ring Road is an option we can not afford.

Issue #5 The Management of Water and Land (October, 2010)**Analysis: "Making the Province Care for Our Water and Land"**

An in-depth, wide-ranging assessment of the Alberta Government's initiatives to improve the management of land and water. The key conclusions are that the Government is reinforcing a status quo that it has recognized needs change, the public's desire for participatory decision-making has been rejected in favor of better "integration" of the provincial agenda into municipal, corporate, and individual decision-making, and the Government has reinforced the wishful thinking that an unknown, speculative future based on growth for growth's sake and the lack of realistic pricing of natural resources is better than what we already have.

Commentary: "Luck Won't Help Us Anymore"

Successfully managing our water and land will depend primarily on the actions of the provincial government. Concerns about provincial intentions and capability are many, diverse, and, in many cases, unpleasant to deal with. They include issues such as putting a price on water, challenging vested interests, pushing for tougher enforcement, resisting provincial inroads into local autonomy, and rebalancing the way we make trade-offs between the environment and the economy.

Issue #6 Electing a City Council That Responsibly Manages Growth (October, 2010)**Commentary: "Managing Growth Requires the Best"**

After examining the campaign platforms of the Mayoral and Aldermanic candidates, recommendations were made on who would be the best choice to manage growth, in particular the issues of recent planning reforms, secondary suites, paying for infrastructure for new subdivisions, working with developers and builders, and the Southwest Ring Road.