



Mayor Konrad and City Councillors
City of Grand Forks
7217 – 4th St. Grand Forks, BC

Jessica Mace
Coordinator, Kettle River Watershed Authority
Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary
2140 Central Ave. Grand Forks, BC
plan@kettleriver.ca
(250)442-4111

Re: Kettle River Watershed Authority Public Outreach Program Funding Support

Dear Mayor Konrad and City Councillors,

The Kettle River Watershed Authority (KRWA) would like to thank all of you for your decision to support the Kettle River Watershed Authority in continuing our public outreach program.

The KRWA was created in 2016 and is governed by representatives from multiple levels of government including provincial, local (including Grand Forks), and First Nations and numerous stakeholders (e.g. industry, forestry, environmental groups). The goal of the KRWA is to implement the 59 actions in the Kettle River Watershed Management Plan (the Plan) (<http://kettleriver.ca>, 2014). The Plan was originally developed to address public concern around watershed function. There was and continues to be major public concern around high and low flows in the river, water temperature, riparian health and fish prevalence and size.

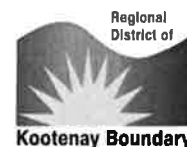
Our latest and most concerning issues in the watershed are floods and droughts. In 2017 we had a flood and a drought in the same year. Both events were unexpected. For the flood, there was normal snow pack levels which lead us to believe that there would be average water flows in the river. For the drought, there was so much water in the system in the spring, it was hard to predict a drought later in the summer. What we are coming to realize is that we need to be prepared for floods and droughts even if they are not expected. Part of our role as the Kettle River Watershed Authority it to help people understand watershed issues and be prepared. Specifically, Action 1.2.5 of the Plan is to implement a watershed education strategy to improve watershed literacy.

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or R3 - Kettle River Watershed
Authority - Letter of
Appreciation

With the funds that you have committed to the Kettle River Watershed Authority work we will complete the following public educational activities including but not limited to:

1. Attend and set up a booth at a number of public events in Grand Forks. At these booths we will:
 - Provide educational material related to floods and droughts. We will work with City staff to ensure that City specific material is available. We will provide flood information material that has been provided by the government of BC and the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary (RDKB).
 - At these events, we will be available to discuss any watershed related issues with citizens and will point them in the right direction if we cannot answer their questions.
 - At these events we will also discuss the importance of healthy riparian areas since these areas can impact droughts and floods.
 - We will have a children's learning booth available to ensure that we are reaching all ages of citizens.
2. Provide flood and drought educational material through social media specifically through Facebook posts. Our Facebook page (Kettle River Watershed Authority) regularly reaches hundreds of people and during emergencies (e.g. last year's flood) it reached over a thousand people.
3. Provide flood and drought educational material through the media including writing newspaper articles and radio ads.
4. Work closely with Chris Marsh, the new RDKB Manager of Emergency Services to support the citizens of Grand Forks and the Boundary in flood preparation activities (e.g. attending neighbourhood meetings, helping with emergency family plans).
5. Run at least one public meeting to provide information related to the watershed discuss current conditions.
6. During an emergency, support the Emergency Team where possible including activities such as managing a list of volunteers that are willing to help with sandbagging (as requested by Chris Marsh) and being available to talk face to face with people to help alleviate stress.

We are requesting that the funds (\$15,000) be paid in one chunk to the RDKB (attention Donna Dean, Manager of Planning and Development) at your earliest possible convenience. The funds will be paid by the RDKB to the consultant on a monthly basis as per work completed.



The Kettle River Starts Here

Again we would like to express our many thanks to Mayor Konrad and the City Councillors for supporting this outreach program. The Boundary Regional Directors are certainly appreciative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 250-442-4111.

Sincerely,

Jessica Mace / plan@kettleriver.ca
Kettle River Watershed Authority Coordinator