

**Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Shediac Bay Watershed
Implementation Committee - Summary Report for 2022-2023**

Prepared by:

Shediac Bay Watershed Association



Sponsored by:



February 2023

Acknowledgement

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) wishes to thank everyone who has worked diligently on the creation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Shediac Bay watershed.

This plan is the result of a lot of good work put in from the steering committee formed in 2016, the working group formed in 2019, and the subsequent implementation committee formed in 2021.

We want to thank the members of the implementation committee, and subcommittees, who volunteer and dedicate their time from their busy schedule to sit at our virtual table. These meetings serve to continue the important discussions. These discussions lead to the creation of partnerships for the implementation of action items that are designed to reach a common goal; to protect the water quality in the Shediac Bay. We look forward to continuing these partnerships in the next fiscal year.

Finally, we wish to recognize the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund for continuing to fund the many projects led by the SBWA, including the coordination of the implementation committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Jolyne Hébert, Executive manager
Shediac Bay Watershed Association

Brief History

Water quality at Parlee Beach has been an area of concern for residents of the Shediac Bay Watershed and for those who enjoy visiting this popular recreational attraction for many years. In 2016, the Government of New Brunswick formed a Steering Committee tasked with gathering information to help gain a better understanding of the source of the water quality concerns.

The results of numerous studies and projects undertaken between 2017 and 2018 were summarized by the Steering Committee in the Parlee Beach Water Quality Shediac, New Brunswick Final Report. The report concluded that while water quality at Parlee Beach is very good most of the time, there are water quality issues within the Shediac Bay Watershed that should be addressed. The development of a Shediac Bay Watershed Management Plan was identified as an important step in addressing water quality issues in the watershed. Improving water quality in the watershed will in turn help protect and improve water quality at Parlee Beach.

In 2019, a working group was formed by the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government (NBDELG) to develop a watershed management plan for the Shediac Bay watershed. The Working Group met regularly and in total, three rounds of engagement took place in October 2019, August 2020 and February 2021. The plan was published in both official languages on October 22, 2021.

Structure

With the help of the NBDELG, an implementation committee was created, consisting of representatives from various governmental agencies (municipal, provincial and federal), First Nations groups, businesses, organizations and the general public. This committee was created to keep stakeholders updated on progress towards the goals and action items in the plan, and to help create partnerships to complete these goals.

To further focus on single goals and action items, subcommittees were created for five of the seven goals. These subcommittees have more focused, in depth discussions on specific action items under their respective goal. Subcommittees can invite guests to their meetings that bring relevant knowledge and expertise to the table.

The implementation committee and subcommittees meet regularly to work on progressing the goals and action items outlined in the plan, through an Annual Watershed Management Plan Implementation Cycle.

Meeting History to Date

Since the creation of the Implementation Committee, six meetings have been held. These meetings took place on January 31, 2022, March 23, 2022, April 21, 2022, October 13, 2022, December 5, 2022, and February 23, 2023.

Four subcommittee meetings were held in addition to the full implementation committee meetings:

- Subcommittee #2 Protect and Improve Water and Habitat Quality met on October 4, 2022;
- Subcommittee #3 Improve Stormwater Management met on February 7, 2023;
- Subcommittee #4 Improve Wastewater Management met on November 16, 2022; and
- Subcommittee #5 Protect the Coastal Areas of the Watershed met on November 16, 2022.

List of Represented Groups

- Shediac Bay Watershed Association
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- NB Department of Environment and Local Government
- NB Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
- NB Department of Health
- NB Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture (Parlee Beach Provincial Park)
- Southeast Regional Service Commission
- First Nations (Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated)
- Town of Shediac
- Red Dot Association of the Shediac Bay
- Stakeholders
- Citizens from the watershed

Web Hosting

Documents relating to the integrated management plan and implementation committee, including meeting minutes, the “Terms of Reference” document, annual reports, and a link to the plan in both languages, has been made publicly available on the Shediac Bay Watershed Association’s website.

Figure 1: Shediac Bay Watershed Boundaries



Figure 2: Annual Watershed Management Plan Management Cycle

