

Demonstration of the new Alberta Rivers Website and App

David Watson and Gary Titosky, Alberta Environment and Parks

As technology becomes ever more present in our society, there follows an increased demand for sharing and disseminating information, especially in areas that deal with public awareness and safety. To meet this growing demand, Alberta Environment and Parks River Forecast Section has created new tools for both the public and community emergency managers. These tools, a mobile app (Alberta Rivers: Data and Advisories) and website (Alberta Rivers) represent a major step forward in how flood and low flow information is communicated to the public and emergency managers alike.

In lieu of a static powerpoint presentation, we would like to present a live demo of the new features of the app and the website, and walk the audience through the new features and uses of the tools. Below, some key features of the app and website are summarized.

Website Features:

The new website includes both a modernized public facing component, as well as a new 'portal' where emergency managers can login to get additional information and context from the River Forecast Section, such as new communication and event logging features.

Public

- Modernizing and intuitive navigation – similar to existing Alberta Rivers mobile app.
- Ability to add frequently viewed stations to 'My Stations' for quick viewing.
- River Advisories are shown in a more geographic fashion, using colour-coded shading for river basins and individual river gauge stations.
- Low flow and water shortage advisories and tools are currently being developed to better communicate these issues to the public.



Portal for Emergency Management

- Gauged information (streamflow, precipitation, snowpack) is connected directly to our user database, so Emergency Managers will have access to the most up to date data possible (data will be the same as available to forecasters).
- Chat feature allows emergency managers to ask questions to forecasters, as well as communicate with other emergency managers within their river basins, allowing everyone to be 'on the same page' during flood events.
- Community Diary allows emergency managers and river forecasting staff to log river related impacts, allowing for better knowledge transfer. A Whiteboard feature allows RFC staff to 'draw' on a map to better illustrate current conditions and future potential conditions, providing better context throughout a flood event (ie: Gauge malfunctions and ETA on fixes, areas of current intense rainfall, future expected rainfall, etc).
- Streamline communication using an Email/SMS feature, which allows the RFC to simultaneously email and text message every emergency manager within a basin (or selected subsets) to communicate important information, such as updated flood forecasts

App Features:

- Access to advisories, forecaster's comments, and streamflow, precipitation and snow pillow data.
- Reservoir outflow alarms: Users can select various pre-determined outflows from the 5 major government owned dams, and they will receive a push notification if outflows exceed these thresholds.

