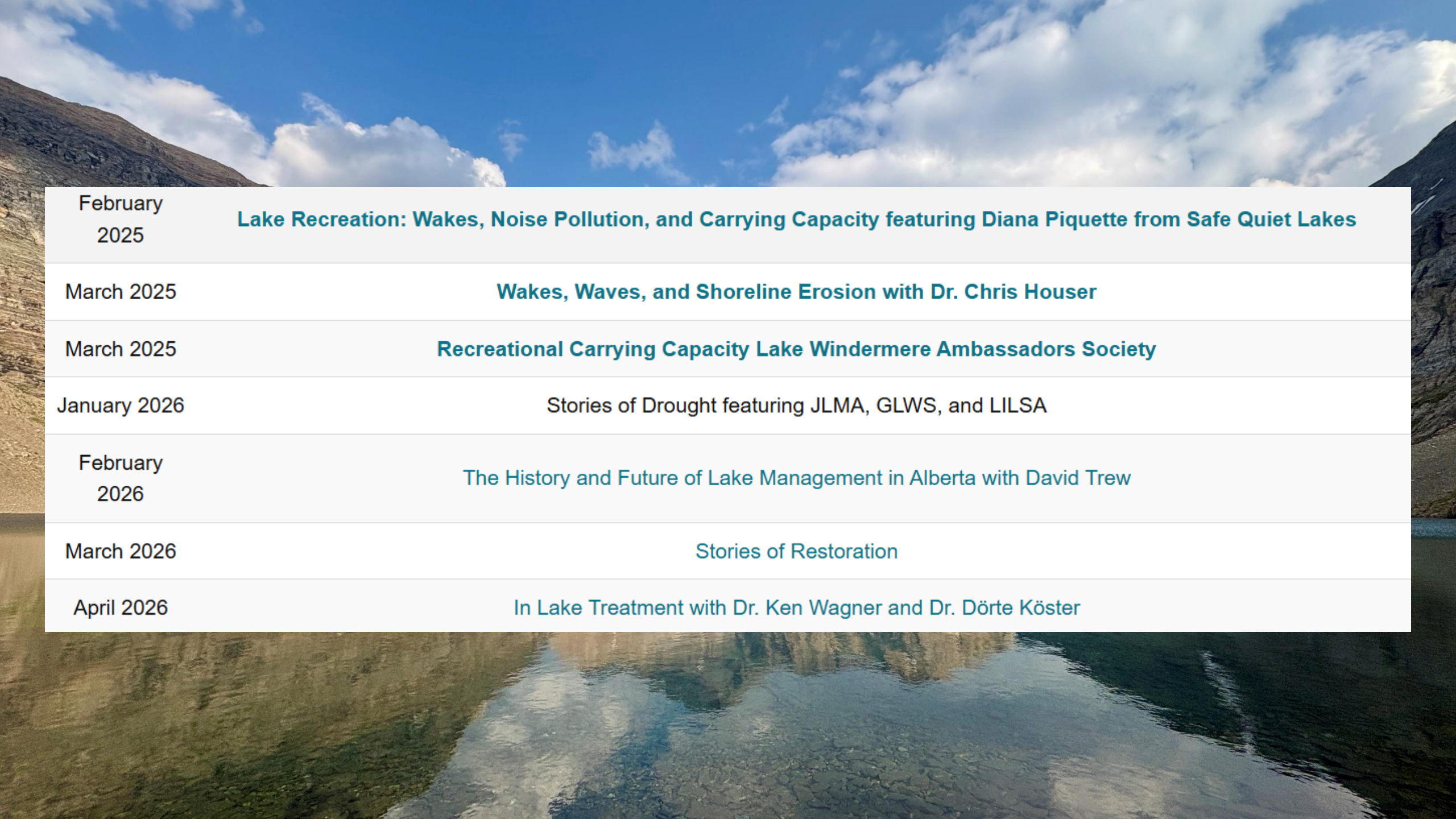
Organizational Challenges for Lake Stewardship in Alberta

Calgary, Alberta

LAKE
STEWARDSHIP
COMMUNITY OF
PRACTICE



February 2025	**Lake Recreation: Wakes, Noise Pollution, and Carrying Capacity featuring Diana Piquette from Safe Quiet Lakes**
March 2025	**Wakes, Waves, and Shoreline Erosion with Dr. Chris Houser**
March 2025	**Recreational Carrying Capacity Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society**
January 2026	Stories of Drought featuring JLMA, GLWS, and LILSA
February 2026	The History and Future of Lake Management in Alberta with David Trew
March 2026	Stories of Restoration
April 2026	In Lake Treatment with Dr. Ken Wagner and Dr. Dörte Köster

Voluntary Sector Initiative
Draft Summary Report

National Watershed/Coastal Zone Stewardship Policy Recommendations and Suggested Actions for Implementation

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Prepared by
Langley Environmental Partners Society
&
Peter Abrams Consulting Services

2003 Policy Recommendations of Interest

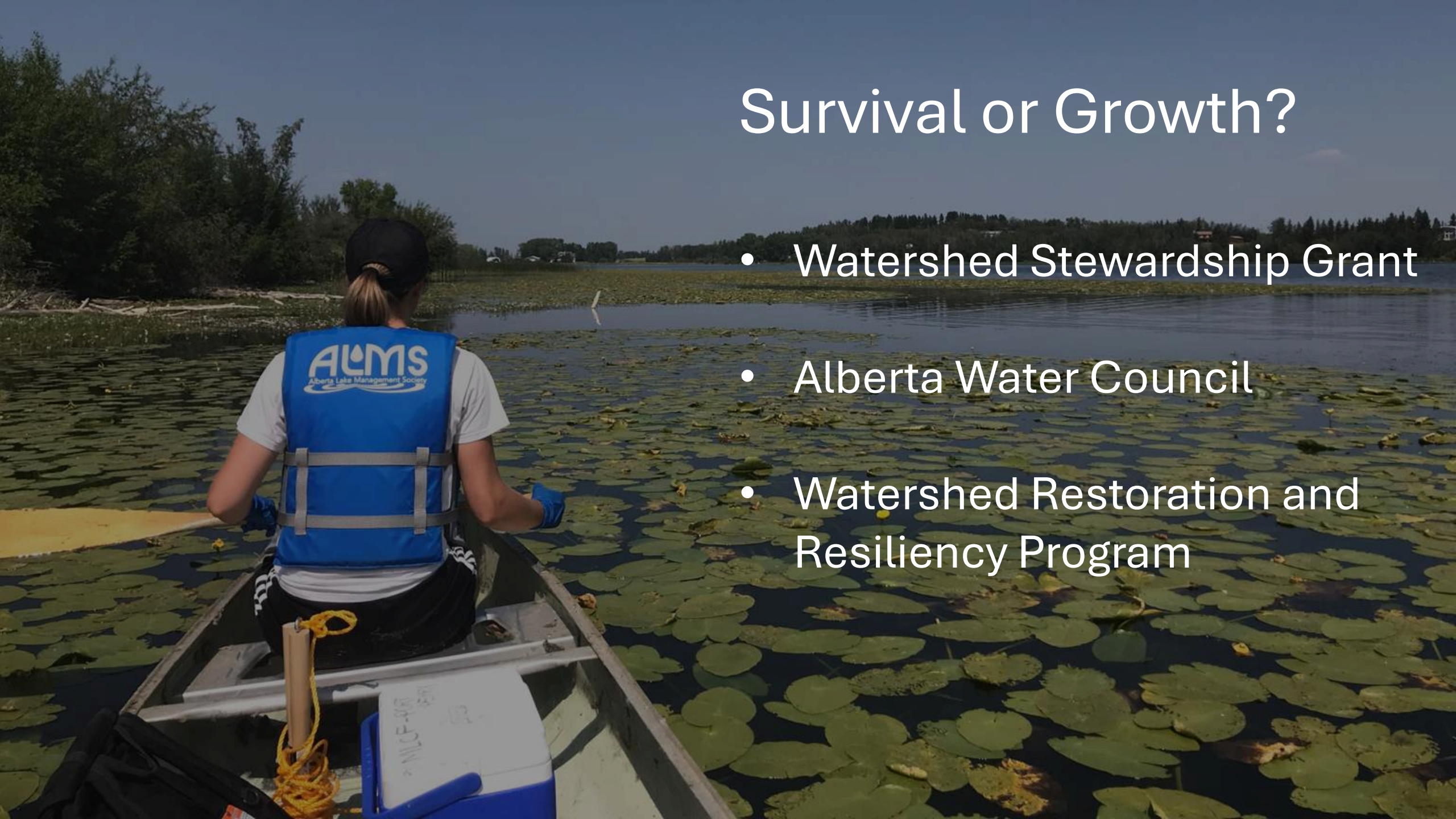
- 4: Provide necessary support to meet the specific challenges of emerging groups/programs.
- 5: Create stability for watershed stewardship groups and programs by generating long-term, stable funding through diverse sources.
- 11:Support the development of a network of watershed stewardship organizations

2003 Policy Recommendations of Interest

- 17: Provide volunteer stewards and stewardship groups with support to maintain momentum and produce successful, long-term initiatives
- 18: Honour volunteers by publicly recognizing, celebrating and rewarding their efforts and accomplishments.
- 21: Create a community-wide awareness-raising program that builds a stewardship ethic across generations and sectors.

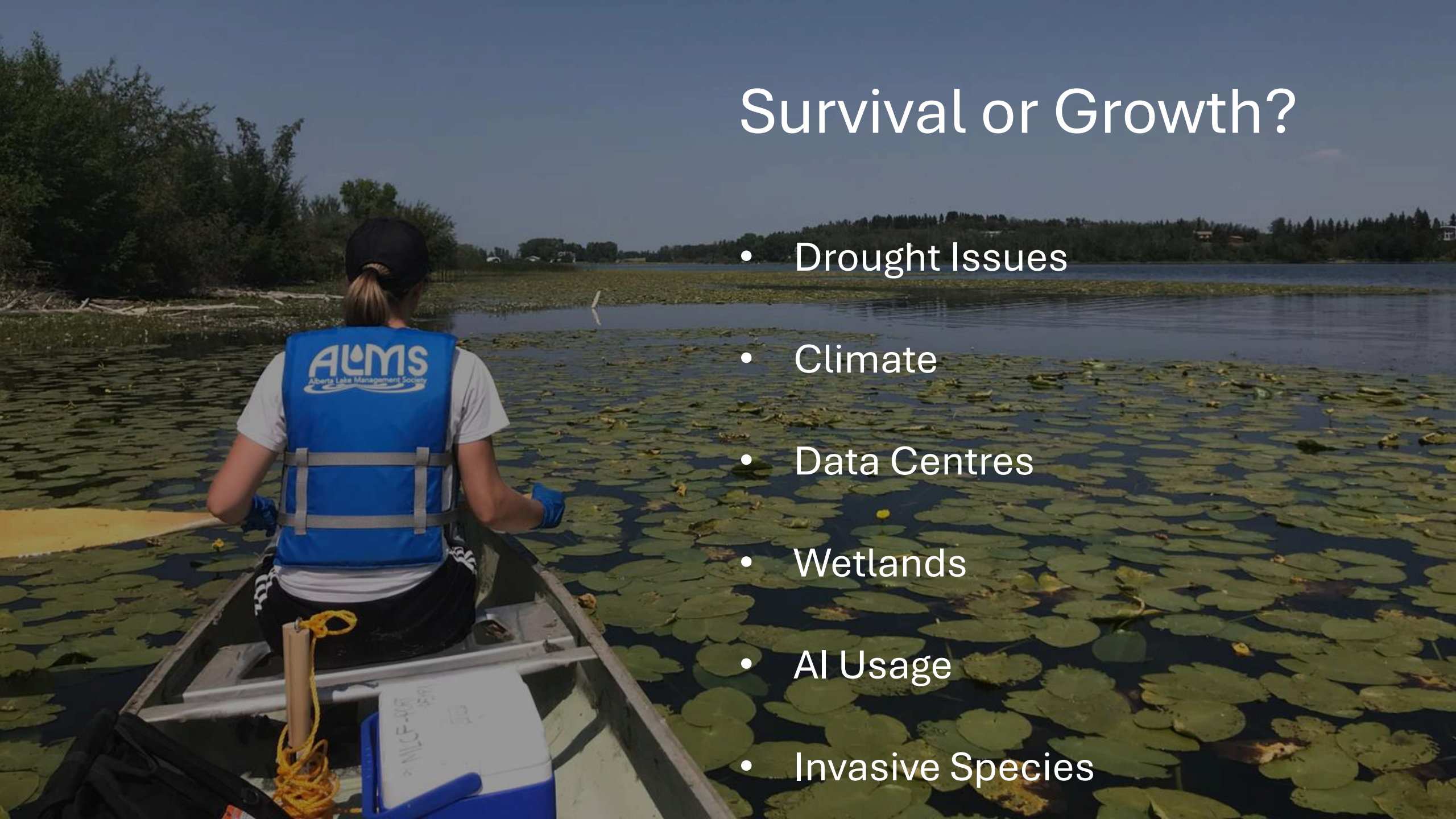
Conclusion

- We need to grow stewardship for a strong foundation of lake management.



Survival or Growth?

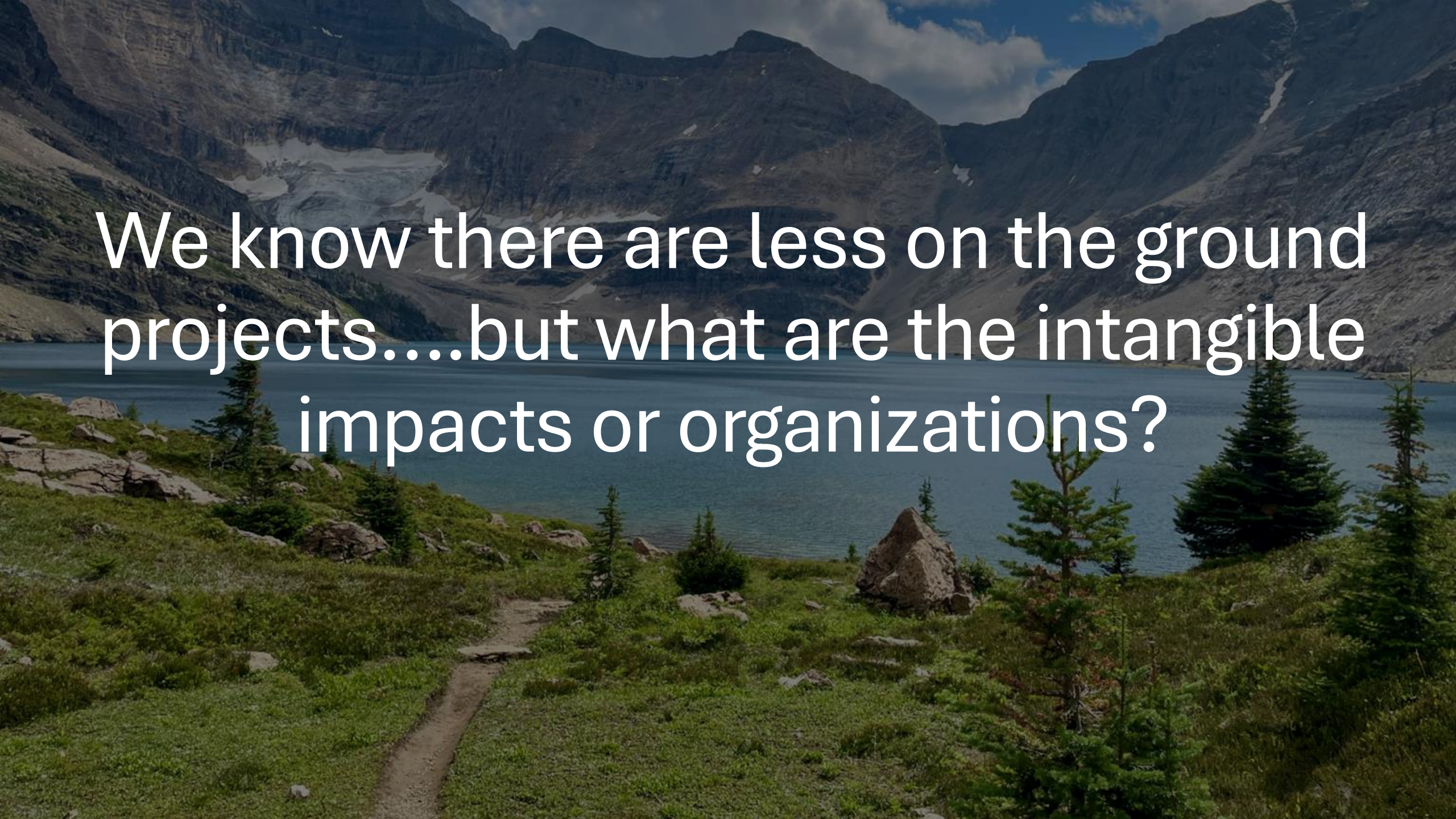
- Watershed Stewardship Grant
- Alberta Water Council
- Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program

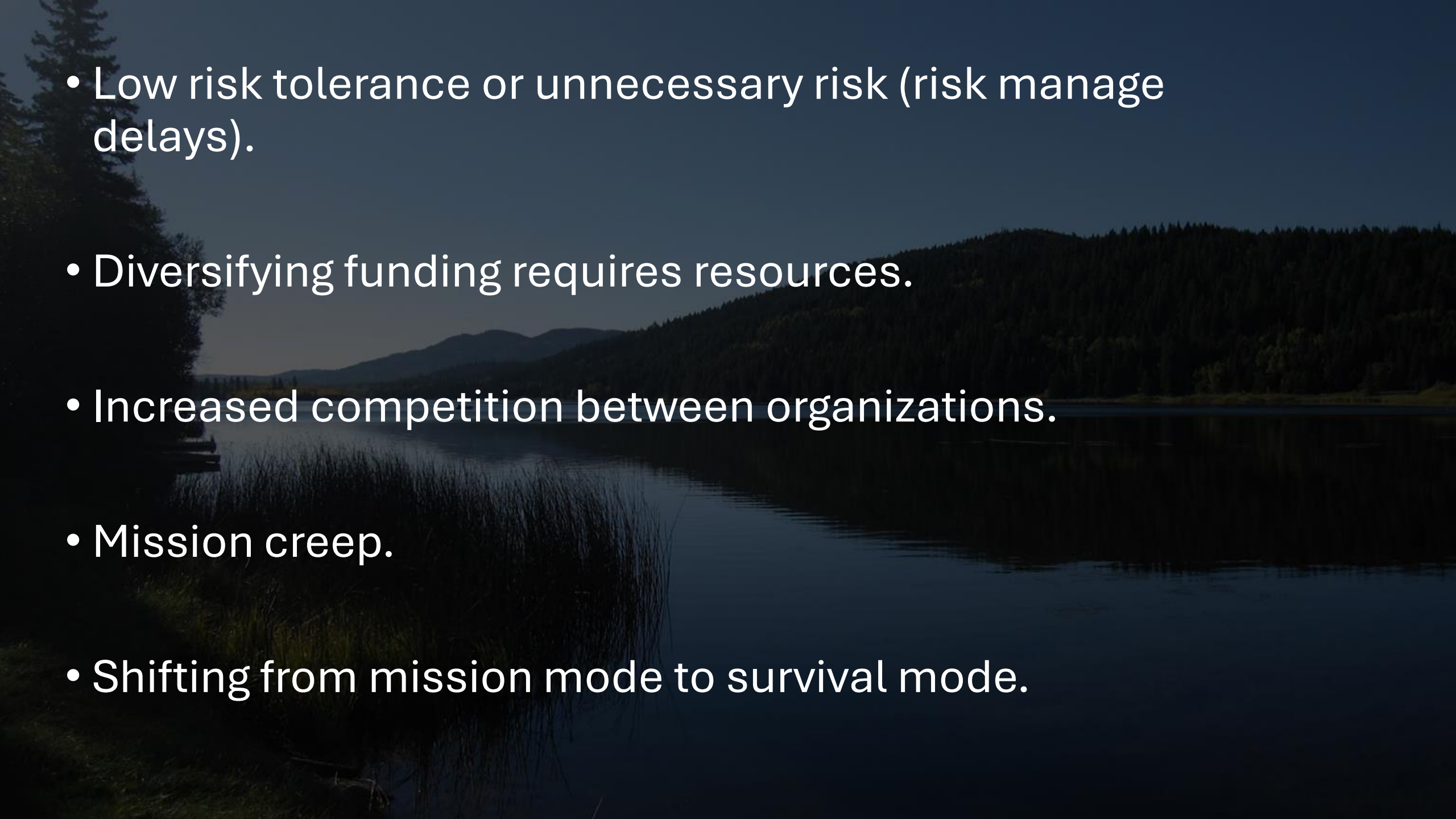


Survival or Growth?

- Drought Issues
- Climate
- Data Centres
- Wetlands
- AI Usage
- Invasive Species

As environmental challenges grow, the organizations expected to respond to them can be losing the capacity to do so.


We know there are less on the ground projects…..but what are the intangible impacts or organizations?



- Low risk tolerance or unnecessary risk (risk manage delays).
- Diversifying funding requires resources.
- Increased competition between organizations.
- Mission creep.
- Shifting from mission mode to survival mode.

As organizations, how can we remain resilient? What concepts can be taken from lake ecology?

Biodiversity and Diversity – ideas, funding.
Connectivity – conferences, CoPs, CBM.

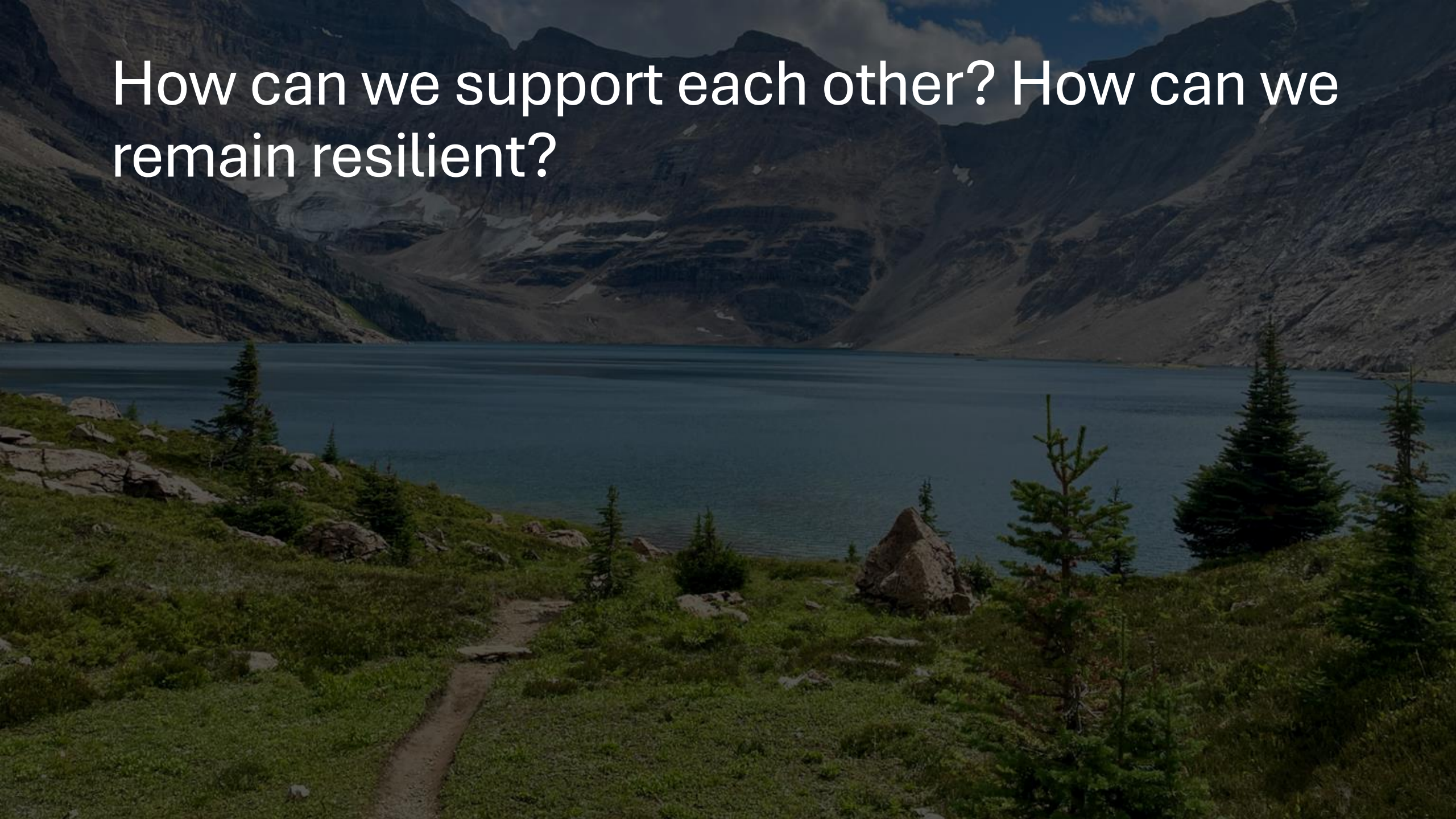
Community based monitoring – more than data points.

Understanding of data.
Trust of data.
Ownership of data.
Data to action. Stewardship ethic.

Responsiveness – AIS, Developments, etc.

Can funders adapt?

- Funding can favor the already privileged.
- Supporting operational activities.
- Modernized applications.
- Letters of Intent
- Challenges of ‘innovation’.


How can we support each other? How can we remain resilient?

Discussion