

Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations Update Report – March 2015 – Vol. 5

1.0 Introduction

As part of the implementation tracking system, Council staff prepare two reports: a Detailed Report and an Update Report. The Detailed Report lists all recommendations and their implementation status (provided by the identified implementer), by individual recommendation, theme or full suite of recommendations. The Detailed Report is in table format and is posted on the Council's website.

The Update Report provides a general overview of implementation progress; it is presented at March board meetings. As part of this presentation, the board has an opportunity to discuss implementation progress and may offer advice to implementers concerning any challenges that are identified.

This Update Report focuses on general progress since the last report (March 2014), and similarly describes implementation progress by project. The date shown after the project name is when the recommendations were presented to the board.

2.0 Projects

2.1 Intra-Basin Water Movement (June 2008)

No change since the March 2012 update.

2.2 Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan (September 2008)

2.2.1 Wetland Policy

ESRD is currently on track for White Area implementation on June 1st, 2015. As of that date, any new Water Act applications for wetland development activities will be subject to the tools and requirements of the Alberta Wetland Policy. Any White Area applications based on field assessments completed during the 2013 or 2014 field seasons will continue to be assessed in the context of the interim policy. This is due to the fact that field assessments completed in accordance with the requirements of the interim policy will not afford sufficient data to enable to the relative value based analyses applied under the Alberta Wetland Policy.

Green Area implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy is expected to occur on June 1st, 2016.

2.2.2 Wetland Implementation Plan

Minor change to reflect that the term "Wetland Replacement Agents" will be used to describe agencies involved in wetland restoration and construction rather than a "Wetland Mitigation Agency".

2.3 Shared Governance (September 2008)

Six of the recommendations that were listed as in progress have been marked as complete, largely due in part to the progress made in completing the recommendations made in the Moving from Words to Actions report.

2.4 Watershed Management Planning (September 2008)

Two more recommendations are considered complete following GoA work in the area of sustainable funding options for the AWC and WPACs, which identified make up a suite of options for a more diverse funding system. GoA provides operating and project grants to the AWC and WPACs, and an annual granting program in support of the WSGs through the Land Stewardship Centre. The GoA works within the partnerships to encourage funding contributions and commitments from all sectors around the tables.

As well, the GoA has finalized the Guide to Watershed Management Planning in Alberta for use in watershed management planning activities by WFL partners. This is publicly available at:

<http://www.waterforlife.alberta.ca/documents/GuideWatershedPlanningAlberta-2015.pdf>.

2.5 Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning (September 2008)

Brief updates were provided to reflect that the next CEP team will begin its work in 2015, and that ESRD nominated the AUMA for an Excellence in Water Stewardship Award through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

2.6 Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (March 2009)

Current AWC work in the area of water literacy will contribute to addressing the recommendation around assessing aquatic education programs.

AWC's report in the area of non-point source pollution (NPSP) allowed two recommendations to be considered complete. The NPSP final report is available on the AWC's website. Ongoing work within the GoA will track the progress of the recommendations made by that team going forward.

2.7 Water for Life Implementation Review 2006 – 2008 (June 2009)

Updates on many recommendations of this report are noted in the detailed report. The updates refer to current and recent AWC initiatives in the area of water literacy; non-point source pollution; and riparian land management and conservation. Work on GoA initiatives are also noted, such as: ESRD's completed "*Guide to Watershed Management Planning*"; the implementation of the Wetland

Policy, water allocation, water reuse and working with Alberta Health to review and revise drinking water systems.

2.8 Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project (August 2009)

The WATSUP recommendations are being considered as part of the implementation of the Water Conversation Action Plan and the Water for Life Action Plan renewal. Under the Water Conversation Action Plan, ESRD will explore approaches for establishing protected water and taking a provincial-level policy approach to water and wastewater re-use in the short-term. These actions will support the longer-term action of optimizing the water management system by taking actions on the water demand and supply sides, and enhancing overall system clarity.

2.9 Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (November 2009)

No change since the March 2014 update.

2.10 Moving from Words to Actions (June 2011)

Seven recommendations (3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 14, and 15) received updates that describe the work done over the last year, with much of the progress being reported by GoA. Recommendations three, six and fifteen were upgraded to “Complete”. For specifics, refer to the detailed report.

2.11 *Water for Life* Implementation Review 2009 – 2011 (October 2012)

The recommendations will be incorporated into the GoA’s renewal of *Water for Life* Action Plan, which is scheduled to begin in 2015.

2.12 Sector Planning for CEP (March 2013)

A minor update was made to reflect that the next CEP team will begin its work in mid-2015.

2.13 Non-Point Source Pollution (March 2013)

Updates reflect that ESRD has made progress on addressing all the recommendations from this report, largely through their work in developing the Alberta Policy for Pollutant Load Management.

2.14 Riparian Land Conservation and Management (March 2013)

ESRD is coordinating an integrated GoA response to the recommendations. Current work focuses on determining how current and upcoming initiatives will support the recommendations with a goal of determining where there are gaps that may be addressed.

3.0 Conclusion

When reviewing the Detailed Report, it is important to understand that recommendations whose implementation status is “in progress” may not have a specific update; however, progress in many cases is being made, and it may be premature to report on work in progress.