

Watershed Management Planning Recommendations

Project Team	Rec #	Project Completion	Implementer	Implementation Target	Recommendation	Status at-a-glance			Status
						Implemented	In Progress	Not Under Consideration at this time	*NOTE* The updates below are provided by the identified implementer(s) and do not necessarily reflect the interpretation of the Alberta Water Council
WMP Framework	1	2-Dec-08	WPACs & WSGs		All watershed management planning activities should contribute to the achievement of Water for Life goals and at a minimum, should follow the Framework for Water Management Planning created under the Water Act. Additionally, these activities should embrace a watershed and shared governance approach. All watershed management planning activities must be consistent with Water for Life and fit within the provincial policy and legislative context.	●			WPACs are working toward or carrying out all these points in their current IWMP processes. In some respects, WPAC IWMP planning is out in front of the development of relevant Provincial Legislation and Policy. Thus it becomes critically important the GOA consult openly and often when it comes to preparing governing instruments.
WMP Framework	2	2-Dec-08	WPACs & WSGs		Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups undertaking watershed management planning should include all sectors that regulate, use, affect or are affected by the water resource as well as all authorities required for implementation of the plan.	●			WPACs and WSGs encourage all sectors to participate.
WMP Framework	3	2-Dec-08	WSGs		Watershed planning initiatives launched by any partnership within a watershed must be aligned with the plans of the designated Watershed Planning & Advisory Council, where one exists. Where a WPAC does not exist, local water or watershed management planning outcomes should be complementary and directed towards supporting Water for Life outcomes.	●			In some watersheds, for example the Beaver River basin, WSG plans were completed before the BRWA's existence. In these instances it isn't appropriate to expect complete alignment with WPAC efforts. Or even Water for Life, which they may also have pre-dated. Of course communications among and between WPACs and WSGs is important in order to achieve this recommendation. Very good alignment is highly probable. Although the work of WSG's naturally aligns with Water For Life, it is a bit paternalistic to insist that they must align, or should be directed towards supporting Water For Life.

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WMP Framework	4	2-Dec-08	GoA		All Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups undertaking planning initiatives should be listed, with their watershed link and contact information, in a central directory, such as the <i>Water for Life</i> website.	●			All WPACs and links are listed on the GoA's Water for Life website. Watershed Groups that wish to be are listed with the Alberta Stewardship Network's website.
WMP Framework	5	2-Dec-08	WPACs & WSGs		To set the scope and emphasis for watershed plans, planning groups should produce a State-of-the-Watershed report with input from stakeholders and the public before planning is initiated. Nevertheless, planning to address issues already identified by watershed stakeholders does not have to await completion of that comprehensive report.	●			Most WPACs and many WSGs are doing this. The iterative cycle of "State of..." reporting, followed by IWM Planning is very common. For the WPACs and WSGs that are doing this, public, stakeholder and decision maker support and input is generally very good. The matter of WSG access to sufficient resources remains a key consideration in the implementation of this recommendation.
WMP Framework	6	2-Dec-08	ESRD		Alberta ESRD should facilitate a process to identify core indicators of watershed health to assist watershed assessment and planning. The Alberta public, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Watershed Stewardship Groups and other interested stakeholders should have input into this process.	●			Complete – ESRD has released and posted on it's website, <i>Guided to Reporting on Common Indicators Used in State of the Watershed Reports, 2012</i> .
WMP Framework	7	2-Dec-08	WPACs		Watershed management plans should be developed within the overall context of the whole watershed and broaden the focus from the main river to the entire watershed (tributaries, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, sub-watersheds) including water use and land use as they affect water.	●			All WPACs are taking this approach.
WMP Framework	8	2-Dec-08	AWC		The Alberta Water Council should review the implementation of Alberta's watershed management plans as part of the <i>Water for Life</i> Implementation Review process, and revisit the question of needed legislation in the future.			●	During the last <i>WFL</i> implementation review, Council included a list of reports that were developed by the <i>WFL</i> partnerships including watershed management plans and other documents. The committee did not review the implementation status of each watershed management plan.
WMP Framework	9	2-Dec-08	LUF Regional Advisory Committees		Regional Advisory Committees established under the Land-use Framework should seek input from WPACs and WSGs about their watershed management information, objectives, and expertise. Where water or watershed management plans exist, these plans must be considered by the Regional Advisory Committees in their regional planning process.	●			The GoA is making RACs aware of relevant work undertaken by key government partners where relevant to Regional Plan outcomes. This work is considered by the GoA. Individual members of RACs would need to consider this recommendation for their individual responses.

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WMP Framework	10	2-Dec-08	GoA		The Government of Alberta, working with its Water for Life partnerships, should facilitate the development of a Water for Life Partnership Funding Model that elicits support from all relevant sectors, understanding that core operating funding will continue to be provided by the Government of Alberta.	●			The GOA has participated in the development and approval of the Alberta Water Council's Sustainable Funding Strategy. Sustainable funding options from other jurisdictions have been researched and compiled by ESRD for WPACs and have been shared with WPACs. These have been considered as part of a suite of options for a more diverse funding system. GoA currently provides annual operating grants to all 11 WPACs in good standing, and project funds to WPACs where proposed projects align with GoA objectives. The GoA also currently funds an annual grant program for Watershed Stewardship Groups through the Land Stewardship Centre Canada. The GoA works within the partnerships (AWC Board and project teams, WPAC Boards and Project teams, and WSG project work) to encourage funding contributions and commitments from all sectors around these tables.
WMP Framework	11	2-Dec-08	GoA		The Government of Alberta should pursue the development of an information network to support watershed management.	●			The GoA hosts an annual forum for WPACs where information is exchanged. A broader network is being examined through the MWA project recommendations.
WMP Framework	12	2-Dec-08	GoA	31-Mar-09	In light of the recommendations within this document, the Government of Alberta should review the Framework for Water Management Planning and update it by March 31, 2009 to better reflect a watershed and shared governance approach.	●			The GoA has reviewed the nature of the Framework and current watershed management planning guidance documents. The Framework is required under the Water Act and no changes are currently under consideration. The GoA has now 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 .