

Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations Update Report – March 2014 – Vol. 4

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, 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, highlighting both successes and challenges; it is presented at the March and October 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 2013), 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

The Government of Alberta publicly announced the Alberta Wetland Policy in fall 2013, which replaces the Wetland Management in the Settled Areas of Alberta: An Interim Policy (1993). The intent of this policy is to provide a comprehensive, consistent, and predictable management system for all wetlands across all areas of Alberta. For details, refer to the detailed report.

2.2.2 Wetland Implementation Plan

Council recommendations for the Wetland Implementation Plan were thoroughly considered in preparation of the Alberta Wetland Policy. The recommendations have also been a key resource in preparation of the policy implementation plan. Lastly, they form the basis for development of operational tools and mechanisms under the Alberta Wetland Policy, which is currently underway. For details, refer to the detailed report.

2.3 Shared Governance (September 2008)

ESRD developed provincial guidance documents which support the intent of the recommendations and assist in watershed management planning. The *Water for Life* partnerships, along with the Government of Alberta continue to work together in a shared governance model to achieve the goals of the *Water for Life* strategy.

2.4 Watershed Management Planning (September 2008)

ESRD developed provincial guidance documents which support the intent of the recommendations and assist in watershed management planning.

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

All seven priority sectors have completed their plans and presented them to Council. The sector plans are available on Council's website. For specifics, refer to the Detailed Report.

2.6 Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (March 2009)

No change since the March 2013 update.

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

ESRD has taken steps to address some of the outstanding recommendations including: submitting a Statement of Opportunity to the Council which was approved to undertake work on source water protection; making the Working Well an ongoing program and working with Health to re-examine small public drinking water system regulations.

2.8 Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project (August 2009)

No change since the March 2012 update.

2.9 Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (November 2009)

ESRD and Tourism, Parks and Recreation are working together to create a single product that incorporates Aquatic Environmentally Significant Areas mapping (which was informed by the PEACH report) with Environmentally Significant Areas mapping. This work will be used to help inform land-use planning at the provincial and local levels for use by government, non-government organizations, industry and other stakeholders.

2.10 Moving from Words to Actions (June 2011)

GoA implementation:

No change since the October 2012 update.

Water for Life Partnerships implementation:

The Land Stewardship Centre, WPACs and the AWC continue to make progress in meeting the intent of the recommendations directed to them. 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 for 2014.

2.12 Sector Planning for CEP (March 2013)

The two sectors that completed their CEP plans in 2010 provided interim progress updates to the Council in 2013 and all seven priority sectors are committed to providing updates to the Council in 2015. The interim progress updates are available on Council's website.

2.13 Non-Point Source Pollution (March 2013)

ESRD has reviewed the recommendations, identified a non-point Source Pollution lead, and is currently working to develop next steps.

2.14 Riparian Land Conservation and Management (March 2013)

This report was recently received by ESRD and recommendations are being considered.

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.