Shared Governance Framework 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* Status updates are provided by the identified implementer and are not approved by the Alberta Water Council
Shared Governance Framework	1	16-Sep-08	WFL Partners		The shared governance approach to water and watershed management should continue to be supported in Alberta by all *Water for Life* partners.	●			The AWC, WPACs and WSGs generally support the shared governance approach to watershed management. ESRD has incorporated this approach into provincial guidance documents for watershed management planning.
Shared Governance Framework	2	16-Sep-08	WFL Partners		*Water for Life* partnerships are connected through a common adherence to Water for Life outcomes. A formal, hierarchical reporting relationship is not required, but improved information exchange and alignment of outcomes among partnerships is necessary.	●			The Alberta Water Council, WPACs and WSGs all support the Water for Life outcomes. Information exchange between the partnerships is supported by the implementation of the AWC's Moving from Words to Actions recommendations.
Shared Governance Framework	3	16-Sep-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 planning outcomes should be complementary and directed towards supporting Water for Life outcomes.	●			Watershed stewardship groups that engage in watershed planning are usually very aware of their region's WPAC and its leadership in basin-wide watershed planning. Alignment comes from ongoing communications, shared information, and having some participants involved in both processes, as supported by the implementation of the Moving from Words to Actions recommendations.
Shared Governance Framework	4	16-Sep-08	WFL Partnerships		The sector model – securing participation based on four broad sectors – provincial government; industry; ENGOs; and other governments – is an appropriate partnership model for watershed planning and policy initiatives. It ensures that all stakeholders are involved and helps balance the many interests that must be accommodated.	●			The AWC and WPACs are structured to follow this sector model. Watershed stewardship groups that pursue watershed planning and policy initiatives generally seek participation from those four broad sectors.
Shared Governance Framework	5	16-Sep-08	WFL Partners		Partners must provide an effective link to their sectors. This includes exchanging information, seeking sector feedback, promoting adopted outcomes throughout their sector, and reporting on sector performance where outcomes require actions from that sector.	●			As experience in these multi-stakeholder processes continues to grow, linkages back to sector members is improving. This is more successful for structured sectors where communication lines are well established.
Shared Governance Framework	6	16-Sep-08	WFL Partnerships		*Water for Life* partnerships should use a consensus-based decision-making process. They should also include a clear approach for dispute resolution.	●			The AWC, WPACs and WSGs (where it makes sense) follow a consensus-based decision-making process. Most WPACs have a Dispute Resolution Procedure.
Shared Governance Framework	7	16-Sep-08	AWC		The Alberta Water Council should work with WPACs and WSGs to produce a strategy for communications among the *Water for Life* partnerships.	●			The AWC *Moving from Words to Actions* project calls for a number of actions over the short-term by the WFL partners and the GoA to address this need.

Shared Governance Framework	8	16-Sep-08	WFL Partnerships		All *Water for Life* partnerships should prepare a communications strategy to inform stakeholders about their operational policies and to keep them informed about the work of the partnership.	●			Although not all partnerships have a communications strategy in hand, most have taken steps to address the intent of this recommendation. The AWC, WPACs, and many WSGs maintain websites with important information about their mandates and operations. They often post board membership, annual reports, bylaws, process guidelines, and so on. Electronic or paper newsletters are used by most Water for Life partnerships to inform stakeholders and the public about their work. Social media are gaining popularity within the Water for Life community.
Shared Governance Framework	9	16-Sep-08	WFL Partnerships		Notification to the general public is required at least when the terms-of-reference and final products of planning and policy initiatives are being presented to partners for endorsement.	●			The AWC maintains a website where all approved project TORs and final reports are posted. All the WPACs maintain websites where they post key documents, such as 'State of the Watershed' reports and 'Watershed Management Plans'. Terms of reference are usually posted until final documents are produced. News releases or other forms of announcements are issued at key stages.
Shared Governance Framework	10	16-Sep-08	GoA		The Government of Alberta must clarify how it intends to integrate recommendations, plans, and actions from *Water for Life* partnerships with its legislative and regulatory responsibilities as soon as possible.	●			Clarification of the integration of recommendations and plans developed by Water for Life partnerships is a regular and ongoing process practice relative to program documents created by Resource Integration Planning Branch (WPAC lead for ESRD), and other Policies, Plans and reports generated by GoA and its Agencies.
Shared Governance Framework	11	16-Sep-08	AWC	Next Review Reporting Cycle	The Alberta Water Council should continue to review the success of the shared governance system through its annual reporting process and take action to improve and support the system.	●			The AWC regularly reviews the implementation progress of the *WFL* strategy, including assessing needs and making recommendations to improve and support the partnership system. The work of the Moving from Words to Actions team also supported this outcome.
Shared Governance Framework	12	16-Sep-08	WFL Partnerships		While the government of Alberta will remain a major source of funding and other resources, *Water for Life* partnerships must also look to all of their stakeholders for contributions to their operation.	●			The AWC receives funding and/or in-kind support from stakeholder organizations directly involved in developing recommendation to address a specific water management issue. WPACs augment their provincial government funding with contributions from industry and municipal stakeholders and from fundraising events. WSGs rely on membership fees and fundraising events, as well as some government grants.
Shared Governance Framework	13	16-Sep-08	GoA		The Government of Alberta, in consultation with its partners, must develop a "partnership resourcing formula" and clear funding commitments to address partnership and sector capacity issues. Adequate operational and project funding, released in a timely fashion, is critical for the success of these partnerships.	●			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 and project funds to the Alberta Water Council, and all 11 WPACs in good standing, according to the alignment of their work with GoA's needs and priorities. GoA is also pursuing a formal MOU arrangement with WPACs that will articulate the expectations and commitments of both parties. The GoA currently funds an annual grant program for Watershed Stewardship Groups through the Land Stewardship Centre Canada.