

Shared Governance (December 2008)						
Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Last Status Update (Year provided)	2018 Status	Comments from Latest Update (Please include any new comments in track changes)
1	The shared governance approach to water and watershed management should continue to be supported in Alberta by all <i>Water for Life</i> partners.	WFL Partners	June 2014	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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.
2	<i>Water for Life</i> 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.	WFL Partners	June 2015	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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.
3	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.	WSGs	June 2015	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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.
4	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.	WFL Partnerships	June 2015	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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. WPAC and WSG sector involvement does not expect board members to speak for the sector, but rather to bring a voice from the sector to discussions.
5	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.	WFL Partners	June 2015	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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.
6	<i>Water for Life</i> partnerships should use a consensus-based decision-making process. They should also include a clear approach for dispute resolution.	WFL Partnerships		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	The AWC, WPACs and WSGs (where it makes sense) follow a consensus-based decision-making process. Most WPACs have a Dispute Resolution Procedure. WPACs follow traditional voting procedures for the election of officers and approval of financial matters. WSGs are less likely to follow a consensus-based process.
7	The Alberta Water Council should work with WPACs and WSGs to produce a strategy for communications among the <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships.	AWC		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – alternative approach	The AWC <i>Moving from Words to Actions</i> project calls for a number of actions over the short-term by the WFL partners and the GoA to address this need.
8	All <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships should prepare a communications strategy to inform stakeholders about their operational policies and to keep them informed about the work of the partnership.	WFL Partnerships		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – alternative approach	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.
9	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.	WFL Partnerships		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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. Many WSGs also post key documents on websites along with newsletters and project information.

10	The Government of Alberta must clarify how it intends to integrate recommendations, plans, and actions from <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships with its legislative and regulatory responsibilities as soon as possible.	GoA		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – alternative approach	Clarification of the integration of recommendations and plans developed by Water for Life partnerships is a regular and ongoing process. The GoA’s Water for Life Cross Ministry Steering Committee is the primary vehicle through which WPAC SoW Reports and Plans are shared, reviewed and provided comment on. As these are non-statutory processes, these products are provided to Regional Planning teams as input to inform Regional Planning in Alberta. AEP is currently reviewing the process by which AWC recommendations are implemented and reported on to ensure the approach is appropriate for relevant program areas needs, structures and capacity.
11	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.	AWC	Next review reporting cycle	Implemented (2016)	Implemented – alternative approach	The AWC regularly reviews the implementation progress of the <i>WFL</i> 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.
12	While the government of Alberta will remain a major source of funding and other resources, <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships must also look to all of their stakeholders for contributions to their operation.	WFL Partnerships		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	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.
13	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.	GoA		Implemented (2016)	Implemented – as written	The GOA has previously 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 AEP 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. and funds an annual grant program for Watershed Stewardship Groups through the Land Stewardship Centre Canada. AEP has confirmed consistent multi-year funding for Alberta Water Council with a 3 year agreement for \$750,000 from 2017-2018 until 2019-2020. Alberta’s Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) were given a three-year \$9.6 million commitment from the Minister. The Land Stewardship Centre of Canada was given a 4-year \$925,000 grant starting in 2016/2017 for the Watershed Stewardship Grant program.