

Lake Watershed Management (July 2017)

Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Latest Status Update (Year provided)	2018 Status	Comments from Latest Update (Please include any new comments in track changes)
1	<p>The Government of Alberta, in setting strategic directions and developing a provincial lake policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt an aspirational vision for sustainable lake watershed management; • identify goals and objectives to improve the provincial, federal and local coordination of lake watershed management; • adopt a comprehensive watershed approach that supports all three goals of <i>Water for Life</i>; • define clear roles and responsibilities of all major groups (e.g., the Government of Alberta, municipalities, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Watershed Stewardship Groups and other groups) involved in lake watershed management; and • define provincial processes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ setting provincial lake watershed monitoring and research priorities ○ prioritizing lake watershed management needs and resources ○ integrating lake watershed management planning into regional, sub-regional and municipal planning and decision-making. <p>Substantial progress on this provincial policy should be made by 2018 and the policy should be completed by 2020.</p>	Government of Alberta	Substantial progress by 2018 and completion by 2020		Pending – to be completed	<p>In the Government of Alberta’s “Our Water, Our Future: A Plan for Action”, the strategic area of Healthy Lakes has three short-term actions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enhance lake governance systems to clarify roles and responsibilities, 2) Fill information gaps to improve lake monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and 3) Enhance public awareness about lake management to further support Albertans in keeping lakes clean and healthy. <p>These short-term actions respond to immediate priorities identified by Albertans and support the long-term action identified for Healthy Lakes – advancing a provincial lake policy that supports an integrated approach to healthy lakes in support of economic, environmental and social interests.</p> <p>Water Policy Branch has initiated managing work relative to the recommended policy.</p>
2	In collaboration with partners, the Government of Alberta coordinate the development of a GIS-based, publicly available data layer of lakes in Alberta and their watersheds by 2019.	Government of Alberta	2019		Pending – to be completed	
3	In collaboration with partners, the Alberta Lake Management Society continue developing a comprehensive knowledge portal that provides one-window access to information and products available for each lake in Alberta, and an ongoing process to populate it.	Alberta Lake Management Society	Ongoing		Pending – to be completed	ALMS continues to work with GIS volunteers to develop a portal for water quality and watershed information.
4	a) identify provincial criteria and indicators of lake watershed health by 2018, to be informed by existing work;	Government of Alberta	2018		Pending – to be completed	As part of Environmental Monitoring and Science Division’s draft 5 year Science Plan, the lake monitoring program is under review for fiscal year 2017/2018.
	b) use these criteria to conduct a preliminary assessment of lake watershed health and information gaps by 2019; and		2019		Pending – to be completed	Once the review, mentioned above, is complete, EMSD will be aware of the state of watershed health and information gaps/be in a position to do a preliminary assessment of watershed health and information gaps
	c) identify provincial lake watershed research and monitoring gaps and needs to inform lake watershed management actions at provincial and local scales, based on the identified criteria and subsequent assessment. Substantial progress should be made by 2020.		2020		Pending – to be completed	
5	The Government of Alberta identify a process by 2020 for all levels of government to engage in and support multi-stakeholder lake watershed planning initiatives where appropriate, and to incorporate lake watershed management plans and/or objectives into land use planning and decision-making. This process should be reflective of the scale and urgency of issues facing the lake and outline how existing lake watershed management plans and/or objectives are to be considered in statutory planning and decision-making.	Government of Alberta	2020		Pending – to be completed	The opportunity for implementation currently lies in regional and sub-regional planning priorities identified through plan development and implementation for all levels of government.

6	The Government of Alberta work with partners to develop an iterative process, using environmental, social and economic criteria, to prioritize lake watershed planning, management and implementation actions, by 2020.	Government of Alberta	2020		Pending – to be completed	Resources provided to WPACs and WSGs supports regional and sub-regional watershed planning, inclusive of high priority lake systems within broader watersheds in the short term. The process to prioritize lake watershed health will be a long-term priority moving forward.
7	By 2020, the Government of Alberta develop a process to designate a local lead to facilitate the collaborative development and implementation of lake watershed management plans and/or objectives where identified as a priority management action. The designated local lead could be a single entity or a group, and must be approved by municipalities in the lake watershed.	Government of Alberta	2020		Pending – to be completed	Environment and Parks will discuss this opportunity through the Water for Life Cross Ministry Steering Committee partners – including Municipal Affairs.
8	The Government of Alberta, through its periodic review of key legislation relevant to lake watershed management: a) seek alignment with the goals and outcomes of <i>Water for Life</i> and the new provincial lake policy, when completed; and	Government of Alberta	Ongoing		Pending – to be completed	Any efforts by AEP to initiate the development of a related lakes policy will align with Water for Life and include a review of existing tools and practices to support such a policy’s implementation.
	b) strengthen legislative tools to enable consistent land-use practices to maintain or improve lake watershed health.		Ongoing		Pending – to be completed	
9	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and Association of Summer Villages of Alberta support greater collaboration and consistency in municipal planning around lakes by: a) working with the Government of Alberta and other relevant partners to identify existing gaps in tools and information and to assist in developing resources to fill these gaps; and	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and Association of Summer Villages of Alberta	Substantial progress by 2019		Pending – to be completed	The AUMA and AAMDC continue to prioritize collaboration with the Alberta Summer Villages Associations, the Government of Alberta and other key stakeholders, where appropriate, to address needed improvements to support lake watershed management. Land-use planning is an important function for municipalities, and the recently amended Municipal Government Act (MGA) identifies new requirements for regional collaboration and land-use planning. Further, summer villages who share a common water body can now amalgamate into a single municipality to improve governance and effective use of resources. This will have an impact on lake management within municipal boundaries. Additional time is required to understand what gaps exist and what resources are needed.
	b) continuing to promote information, tools and guidance documents related to lake watershed management planning. Substantial progress should be made by 2019.		Substantial progress by 2019		Pending – to be completed	
10	By 2019, the Government of Alberta work with all levels of government to identify regulatory or operational gaps relative to land development and other activities on and surrounding lakes, and develop and implement strategies to address such gaps.	Government of Alberta	2019		Pending – to be completed	The opportunity for implementation currently best lies in regional and sub-regional planning priorities identified through plan development and implementation. Strongly linked to this is AEP’s current work on outdoor recreation management and impacts to lands that affect watershed and waterbody health.
11	The Government of Alberta work with municipalities and partners to align and enhance beneficial management practices incentive programs in lake watersheds where non-point source priority management actions have been identified for lake watersheds. An ongoing process to achieve this should be initiated by 2019.	Government of Alberta	2019		Pending – to be completed	
12	The Government of Alberta continue to work with partners to coordinate lake education and outreach through the Respect our Lakes program. This includes identifying target audiences, developing consistent messaging and ensuring access to educational information, tools and resources for lake watershed management by 2018.	Government of Alberta	2018		Pending – to be completed	The Community Engagement Branch of AEP is actively leading the Respect our Lakes Program, including the Alberta Recreational Lakes Forum, which is serves to fulfill this recommendation’s intent. Some program highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alberta Recreational Lake (ARL) Forum was expanded from being focused on Central Alberta to include lakes across the entire province. It was held at Lake Isle on April 20, 2017 with over 60 participants. Topics featured were flowering rush, whirling disease, Alberta Water Council’s Lake Management Project, stewardship

						<p>projects and an economic assessment of the effects of cyanobacteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new signs (Responsible Lake Recreation and Responsible Lake Living) were developed in April 2017 under the Respect our Lakes program to complement a previously developed roadside sign. • The three signs are offered to AEP staff and a wide range of partners, such as municipalities, lake stewardship groups and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, free of charge to install in appropriate locations, such as boat launches or public beaches, across the province. • In total, over 300 signs were delivered to partner organizations and staff throughout 2017. • A new responsible recreation brochure was created with input of AEP staff and partner organizations, to complement the other 5 information brochures under the Respect our Lakes banner. The brochures are provided by request to any organization across the province and supported by displays and on-line resources. <p>In addition to Respect Our Lakes, the department funds both operations and lake monitoring projects under taken by the Alberta Lake Management Society to further lake education and outreach.</p>
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