

Riparian Land Conservation and Management (November 2013)

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 Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within six months identify a lead who is accountable for the coordination and integration of riparian land conservation and management in the province, including implementation and annual public reporting on the progress of the remaining recommendations in this report.	ESRD	August 2014	In progress (2016)	Closed – not a priority	Not aligning with current business and priorities.
2	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within one year and in consultation with stakeholders, establish a provincial riparian land conservation and management vision that recognizes the ecological, social and economic importance of riparian lands and their functions.	ESRD	February 2015		Partially Implemented	Advancing work on goals and objectives for riparian management on public lands (public lands only at this time).
3	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within one year and in consultation with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Health, and other key Ministries and stakeholders, lead the development of desired provincial level riparian land conservation outcomes that are consistent with the provincial vision and that support integrated management. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development should also provide a framework for the development of aligned and more specific outcomes at multiple scales.	ESRD	February 2015			
4	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within three years, and as frameworks and regional plans are developed, in consultation with stakeholders including other Ministries, ensure that the riparian land conservation and management vision and desired outcomes are integrated into regional land use planning, watershed management planning, and other relevant plans and frameworks including municipal planning as guided through the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> .	ESRD	February 2017		Pending – to be completed	The draft North Saskatchewan Regional Plan and a draft amended Lower Athabasca Regional Plan include content on riparian areas and management. Engagement on regional plans will proceed according to the established processes.
5	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within three years undertake a cross-Ministry review of legislation, regulation, policies and programs to ensure consistency and to facilitate removal of disincentives or barriers to conservation and management of riparian lands.	ESRD	February 2017		Pending – uncertain	Resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.
6	The Alberta Water Council recommends that the Government of Alberta within three years and in consultation with stakeholders, initiate and support the development of a suite of incentive tools, including conservation and stewardship tools, that are targeted toward the provincial outcomes for integrated riparian land conservation and management, with ongoing implementation and review.	GoA	February 2017		Pending – uncertain	GoA continues to explore approaches to development of tools and approaches.
7	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within three years and in consultation with relevant Ministries, improve implementation and consistent enforcement of legislation and application of policy relevant to riparian lands, with ongoing review and continuous improvement.	ESRD	February 2017		Pending – uncertain	Resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.

8	The Alberta Water Council recommends that the Government of Alberta within three years in consultation with Alberta Municipal Affairs and municipalities, improve riparian land conservation and management in municipalities by ensuring regulatory support and building capacity, with ongoing review.	GoA	February 2017		Pending – uncertain	Resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.
9	The Alberta Water Council recommends that the Government of Alberta within three years and in partnership with stakeholders, develop and implement an integrated province wide strategy to improve the sharing of knowledge and information regarding riparian lands. The strategy should increase sector and public understanding and stewardship of riparian lands functions, values, conservation and management, with ongoing implementation and review.	GoA	February 2017		Pending – uncertain	GoA continues to have intent to improve awareness and understanding. Development of a strategic approach to education and awareness of aquatic ecosystems and riparian areas is included in the draft North Saskatchewan Regional Plan, as well as content promoting education and awareness in the draft amended Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. Internal collaboration with community engagement staff on their initiatives (including improvement of water literacy) are ongoing.
10	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within five years in partnership with stakeholders, lead the identification and adoption of accepted methodologies to delineate and map the extent of riparian lands in Alberta at multiple scales, and then map riparian lands as a coordinated ongoing activity.	ESRD	February 2019		Pending – uncertain	The draft North Saskatchewan Regional Plan includes content on advancing a riparian data standard.
11	The Alberta Water Council recommends that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development within one year and in partnership with stakeholders, lead the review, adoption and ongoing implementation of a provincial riparian health and function assessment framework that includes well accepted and currently practiced methods that are compatible at multiple scales.	ESRD	February 2015		Pending – uncertain	There is recognition that a more coordinated approach to health and function assessment may be desirable, however, resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.
12	The Alberta Water Council recommends that the Government of Alberta within two years and in partnership with stakeholders identify, adopt and support ongoing implementation of best or beneficial riparian management practices and approaches that align with nested outcomes.	GoA			Pending – uncertain	Continued uncertainty as to the best approach. Resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.
13	The Alberta Water Council recommends that the Government of Alberta within five years and in partnership with stakeholders, produce a publicly available “Alberta State of Riparian Lands Conservation and Management” progress report, and update and re-publish every five years thereafter.	GoA			Closed – not a priority	Not aligning with current business and priorities.