

Lake Watershed Management (July 2017)

Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Latest Status Update (Year provided)	2019 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"> <li>• adopt an aspirational vision for sustainable lake watershed management;</li> <li>• identify goals and objectives to improve the provincial, federal and local coordination of lake watershed management;</li> <li>• adopt a comprehensive watershed approach that supports all three goals of <i>Water for Life</i>;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• define provincial processes for:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ setting provincial lake watershed monitoring and research priorities</li> <li>○ prioritizing lake watershed management needs and resources</li> <li>○ integrating lake watershed management planning into regional, sub-regional and municipal planning and decision-making.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	<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"> <li>1) Enhance lake governance systems to clarify roles and responsibilities,</li> <li>2) Fill information gaps to improve lake monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and</li> <li>3) Enhance public awareness about lake management to further support Albertans in keeping lakes clean and healthy.</li> </ol> <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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	
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 (2018)	Implemented – as written (2019)	ALMS has made this data available online.
4	<p>The Government of Alberta, in collaboration with partners:</p> <p>a) identify provincial criteria and indicators of lake watershed health by 2018, to be informed by existing work;</p>	Government of Alberta	2018	Pending – to be completed (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	<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"> <li>4) Enhance lake governance systems to clarify roles and responsibilities,</li> <li>5) Fill information gaps to improve lake monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and</li> <li>6) Enhance public awareness about lake management to further support Albertans in keeping lakes clean and healthy.</li> </ol> <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>
	<p>b) use these criteria to conduct a preliminary assessment of lake watershed health and information gaps by 2019; and</p>		2019			Pending – Uncertain

	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 – Uncertain	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.
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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	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
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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	
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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	The opportunity for implementation currently lies in regional and sub-regional planning priorities identified through plan development and implementation for all levels of government.
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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	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.
	b) strengthen legislative tools to enable consistent land-use practices to maintain or improve lake watershed health.		Ongoing	Pending – to be completed (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	Environment and Parks will discuss this opportunity through the Water for Life Cross Ministry Steering Committee partners – including Municipal Affairs.
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 (2018)	Pending – to be completed	The AUMA and RMA 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	<b>AUMA:</b> AUMA shares information on lake management through our Water Management Hub. The Hub will need to be updated to reflect changes to the Municipal Government Act that affect land use planning and watershed management. As these are very complex issues, municipalities will need further support as they transition to implementing new MGA requirements. <b>RMA:</b> The MGA now identifies that a municipal purpose is to foster the well-being of the environment. Through the MGA review and implementation process, the RMA has communicated to members regarding the complexity of land-use planning, which includes watershed management. Ongoing effort is needed to support municipalities as they transition to implementing the new MGA requirements, which will also support watershed management planning. The AUMA and RMA continue to advocate to and seek clarification from the Government of Alberta regarding the need for regional plans to be developed under the Land-use Framework to encourage consistent planning across Alberta’s watersheds.	
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	Government of Alberta	2019	Pending – to be completed	Pending – Uncertain	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

	strategies to address such gaps.			(2018)		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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	
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 (2018)	Pending – Uncertain	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Alberta Recreational Lake (ARL) Forum was held at Pigeon Lake on May 10<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin No. 10. There were 68 attendees, and presentations included cryoseismic events, regional wastewater project, citizen science for eDNA and program updates from ALMS, Cows and Fish and Living by Water. A tools and techniques café also shared various resources with attendees. The afternoon was spent in groups discussing solutions for lake legislation, keeping Alberta lakes healthy, lake science and communicating with lake audiences.</li> <li>• The ROL Program is currently under review. AEP staff are currently working to identify gaps with the current resources and is working to update available resources. This includes the brochures, signage and Alberta Recreational Lake forum, and we are hoping to add additional resources such as infographics. Partners and stakeholders were engaged through a survey in the fall of 2018 to discuss needs of the program. Results of the program review and new resources will be presented at the ARL forum in 2019.</li> </ul> <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>