



TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF AWC RECOMMENDATIONS

Update Report



February 2019
Volume 8

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Introduction

AWC has been tracking the implementation status of its recommendations since 2012. As part of the tracking system, AWC staff prepare two reports: a Detailed Report and an Update Report. The Detailed Report lists all recommendations and their implementation status (provided by the identified implementer), by individual recommendation, theme or full suite of recommendations. The Detailed Report is in table format and is posted on the Council's website. The Update Report provides a general overview of implementation progress; it is presented at March board meetings. As part of this presentation, the board has an opportunity to discuss implementation progress and may offer advice to implementers concerning any challenges that are identified.

In October 2017, the board approved a revised process with the objective of facilitating more meaningful updates on the status of the recommendations and incorporating a process that would allow us to stop tracking them once they had achieved criteria. New options for reporting should facilitate more meaningful updates and allow the AWC to identify recommendations that will require no further updates. This is intended to streamline the recommendation tracking process and focus future updates on recommendations for which the work is ongoing.

This is the second Update Report based on the revised tracking system. It highlights key changes to the status of recommendations and describes implementation progress by project since the last report (March 2018). The date shown after each project name is when the recommendations were originally presented to the board.

Overview

This report synthesizes updates received on 276 recommendations from 19 AWC projects. The charts on the following page provide an overview of how the distribution of recommendation status has evolved since the last updates were provided in 2018. Highlights from recommendation tracking this year include:

- Close to 75% of the recommendations were categorized as implemented or closed. The AWC will not be requesting further updates on these recommendations for future reports.
- Starting in 2018 many recommendations were assigned to new categories such as: implemented through an alternative approach, partially implemented, and closed, either because not a priority or not appropriate.

To date recommendations from three projects have **all** been reported as implemented:

- Sector Planning for Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (March 2013)
- Shared Governance (September 2008)
- Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (November 2009).

AWC Recommendation Tracking Detailed Reports – 2019

The Alberta Water Council (AWC) tracks the implementation status of its recommendations annually. You are receiving this document because your organization was identified as an implementer for the attached recommendations. Please refer to the status key below to select the appropriate status for each recommendation. Within each category, please also select from the two to three additional options to describe the rationale for the status of the recommendation:

Implemented



Implementer reports that the recommendation or its intent has been implemented.

Choose one of the following options:

OPTION 1 - As written: Recommendation has been implemented as written by the AWC

OPTION 2 - Alternative approach: Intent of the recommendation has been implemented through an alternative approach

OPTION 3 - Unclear but met: The recommendation did not include a clear goal and/or timeframe, but the intent has been met



Partially implemented

Recommendation or its intent has been partially implemented but there is no plan to implement the outstanding portion.



Pending

Implementer reports that the recommendation is at various stages of implementation or uncertain; further follow-up is required next year. Choose one of the following:

OPTION 1 - To be completed: Implementation has begun with the intent to be completed

OPTION 2 - Uncertain: Implementation may or may not have begun but further progress is contingent on other factors (e.g., other work, budget limitations, staffing limitations)



Closed (no further follow-up planned)

Implementer reports that the recommendation will not be implemented and no further follow-up is expected. Choose one of the following:

OPTION 1 - Not a priority: Recommendation is no longer considered a priority

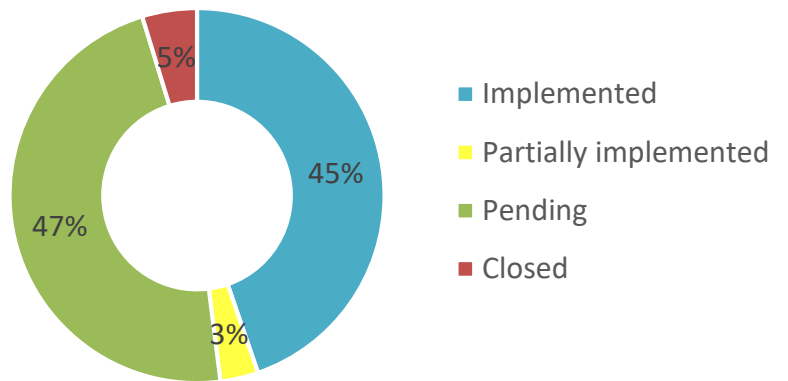
OPTION 2 - Not appropriate: Recommendation is no longer considered appropriate (e.g., this is not part of the mandate of the identified implementer, this group does not exist anymore, AWC targeted the recommendation to an inappropriate group)

OPTION 3 - Unclear and not met: The recommendation did not include a clear goal and/or timeframe, and the intent has not been met

Recommendations Overview

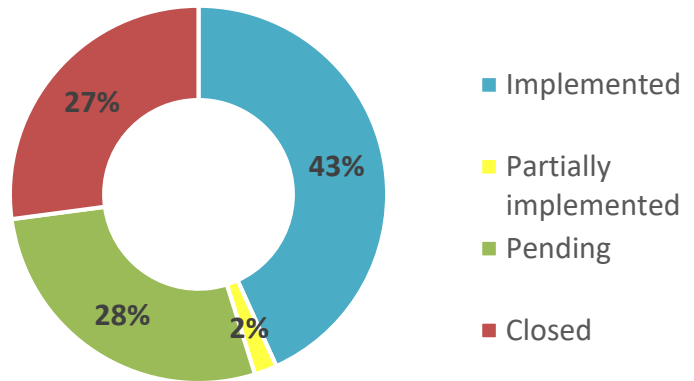
The first chart shows the distribution of recommendation status at the last update in 2018.

Implementation status of recommendations in 2018



The second chart shows the distribution of recommendation status as of 2019. There were no new projects to add since the last report in 2018.

2019 Implementation Status of Recommendations



Projects

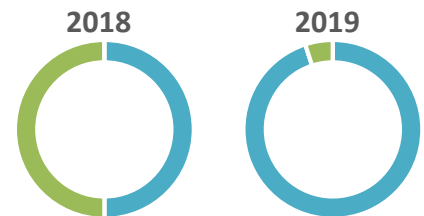
This section presents project-specific updates. For each project, the charts on the right are a quick way to assess how the status of recommendations has evolved from 2016 to 2018. **Please note that the charts below use the same legends as the charts on the previous page:**

■ Implemented ■ Partially implemented ■ Pending ■ Closed

Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan (September 2008)

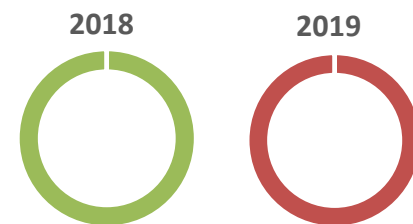
38/40 have all been recorded as “implemented: As written” or “implemented: alternative.”

- **Recommendation 2.1.3:** remains as pending, with no changes in status identified from Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs).
- **Recommendation 2.2.1:** remains as pending, with no changes in status identified from WPACs.



Intra-Basin Water Movement (June 2008)

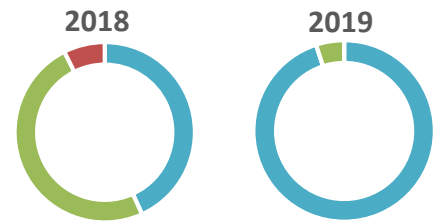
All recommendations were updated to reflect that they have been closed, as a comprehensive response for these recommendations is not being developed. The Government of Alberta (GoA) is considering new policies and protocols resulting from the emergence of Whirling disease in Alberta, and other actual or potential aquatic invasive species. Additionally, a 10-year review of *Approved Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin (Alberta)* is currently being undertaken.



Wetland Policy Implementation Plan

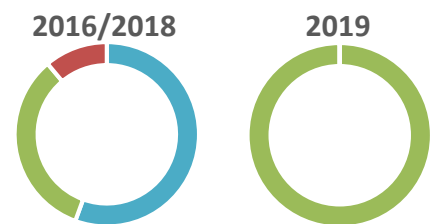
Recommendations form the basis for a multitude of operational tools and mechanisms that have been developed under the Alberta Wetland Policy.

- **Recommendation 2.1.3:** remains “pending”
- **Recommendation 2.2.1:** remains “pending”



Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (March 2009)

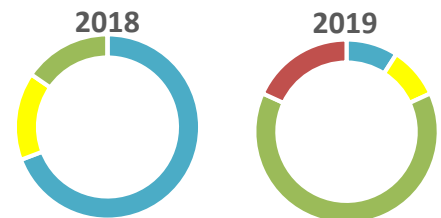
Recommendations 2, 3 and 4 remain pending from the previous update in 2018.



Water for Life Implementation Review 2006 – 2008 (June 2009)

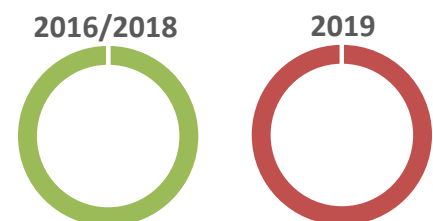
Recommendations 3, 5, 7 and 8 were updated:

- **Recommendation 3:** updated to “Implemented – Alternative Approach” by the GoA, and remains “Pending” by the WPACs
- **Recommendation 5:** remains as “pending”
- **Recommendation 7:** updated from “partially implemented” to “closed”
- **Recommendation 8:** updated from “partially implemented” to “closed” by the GoA, and remains “pending” by the WPACs



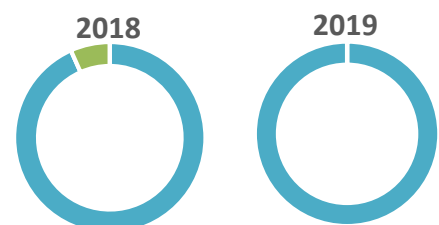
Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project (August 2009)

The status of all recommendations was updated from “pending” to closed.” Alternative approaches and options are being utilized by the Ministry which align with emerging government priorities and available staffing resources.



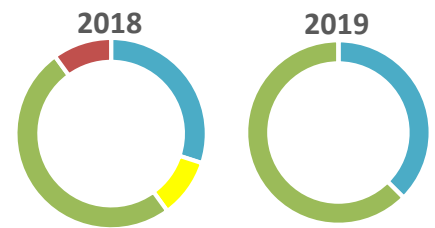
Moving from Words to Actions (June 2011)

Recommendations 9 was updated from “pending” to “Implemented”



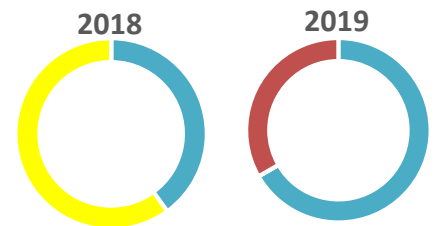
Water for Life Implementation Review 2009 – 2011 (October 2012)

- **Recommendation 1:** updated from “pending” to “implemented – alternative approach.”
- **Recommendation 3:** updated from “pending” to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 4:** updated from “partially implemented” to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 6:** remains “pending” by the WPACs and ASN
- **Recommendation 7:** remains “pending”



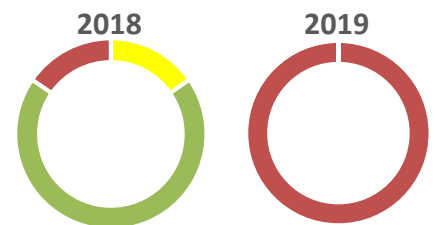
Non-Point Source Pollution (March 2013)

- **Recommendation 2:** updated from “partially implemented” to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 3:** updated from “partially implemented” to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 5:** updated from “partially implemented” to “closed”



Riparian Land Conservation and Management (March 2013)

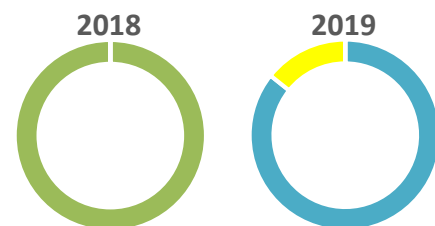
The status for all recommendations was updated to “closed.” These recommendations are not part of current water priorities and resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.



Aquatic Invasive Species (October 2015)

All recommendations were updated to “implemented” or “partially implemented.”

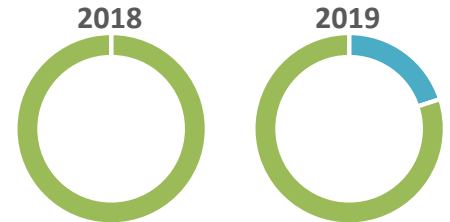
- **Recommendation 1:** Implemented as Written: Ongoing, leveraged national scale tasks
- **Recommendation 2:** Partially Implemented: Implemented for Citizen Science/ongoing for response improvement
- **Recommendation 3:** Implemented: Ongoing – Leveraging social media to share good news stories
- **Recommendation 4:** Implemented as Written - Ongoing
- **Recommendation 5:** Implemented as Written - Ongoing. The Aquatic Invasive Species program will continue with mandatory watercraft inspections in 2019.



- **Recommendation 6:** Implemented as Written - Ongoing. Training is given yearly to all watercraft inspectors and those appointed as Fishery Guardians.
- **Recommendation 7:** Implemented as Written - Ongoing

Water Literacy (April 2016)

- **Recommendation 1:** Implemented as Written
- **Recommendation 2 – 5:** remain “pending”

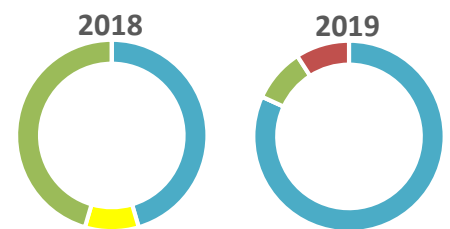


Water for Life Implementation Review 2012-2015 (October 2016)

Updates were provided on recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10.

Updates include:

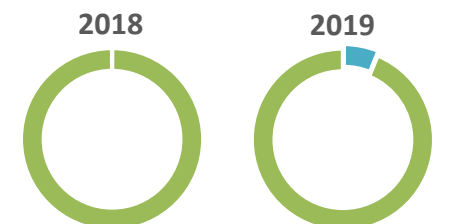
- **Recommendation 3:** updated from “partially implemented” to “implemented – alternative approach.”
- **Recommendation 4:** updated from “pending” to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 5:** updated to “implemented – alternative approach”
- **Recommendation 6:** updated from “pending” to “closed”
- **Recommendation 7:** updated from “pending” to “implemented – as written”
- **Recommendation 9:** updated from “pending” to “implemented – as written”
- **Recommendation 10:** reported as “implemented” by the AWC and WPACs in 2018, but remains “pending” by the WSGs



Lake Watershed Management (March 2017)

All recommendations are “pending (to be completed)” apart from Recommendation 3, which is marked as “Implemented – as written.” Implementation targets for recommendations range from 2018 to 2020. Ongoing work includes:

- **Recommendation 1:** The Water Policy Branch of AEP has initiated managing work relative to a provincial lake policy.
- **Recommendation 2:** Pending - Uncertain
- **Recommendation 3:** Implemented as written, data is available online
- **Recommendation 4:** The Environmental Monitoring and Science Division’s lake monitoring program is under review, which will inform a preliminary assessment of watershed health and information gaps.

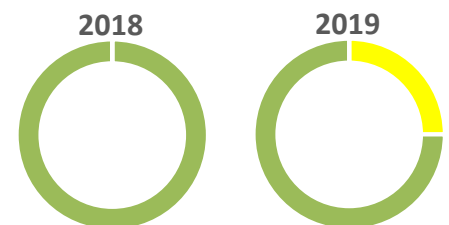


- **Recommendation 5:** The opportunity for implementation currently lies in regional and sub-regional planning priorities identified through plan development and implementation for all levels of government.
- **Recommendation 6:** Resources provided to WPACs and WSGs supports regional and sub-regional 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.
- **Recommendation 7:** Environment and Parks will discuss this opportunity through the Water for Life Cross Ministry Steering Committee partners – including Municipal Affairs.
- **Recommendation 8:** 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.
- **Recommendation 9:** 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.
- **Recommendation 10:** The opportunity for implementation currently best lies in regional and sub-regional planning priorities identified through plan development and implementation.
- **Recommendation 11:** Remains pending
- **Recommendation 12:** 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.

Evaluating Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (March 2017)

This is the first recommendation tracking update on this report. All recommendations are pending (to be completed):

- **Recommendation 1:** Next updates on CEP trends and progress are expected to be provided through the AWC in 2020.
- **Recommendations 2 and 3:** Major water-using sectors each provided their own assessment of recommendations 2 and 3, and although some consider these recommendations to be implemented, others consider them to be pending. As a result, the overall status for these two recommendations is pending.
- **Recommendation 4:** Updated to “partially implemented.” AEP developed WURS database query and viewing capability for extracting information. This query/viewer tool is being used internally and is being used by staff to provide data to the public.

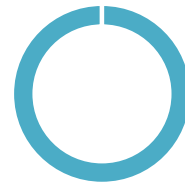


Previously Complete or Closed

Shared Governance (September 2008)

All recommendations are implemented. Updates were added by implementers to specify whether recommendations were implemented as written or through alternative approaches. No further updates will be requested on recommendations from this project.

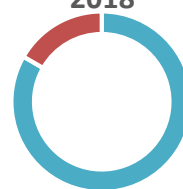
2016/2018



Watershed Management Planning (September 2008)

- **Recommendation 3:** Status was changed from “implemented” to “closed” (not appropriate). Although the work of WSGs naturally aligns with *Water for Life* and communication between WSGs and WPACs is important, some WSG plans were completed before WPAC plans.
- **Recommendation 8:** Status was updated from “not under consideration at this time” to “closed” (not appropriate). Reviewing watershed management plans is not included in the scope of the AWC’s *Water For Life* Implementation Review.

2018

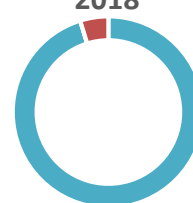


Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning (September 2008)

Recommendations 9, 13, 15 and 18 were updated:

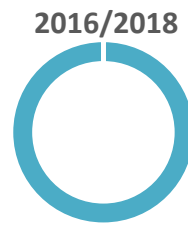
- **Recommendation 9:** Updated from “in progress” to “implemented” to reflect that the fourth CEP report was released in 2017 and addresses this recommendation.
- **Recommendation 13:** Updated from “not under consideration at this time” to “closed.”
- **Recommendation 15:** Updated from “in progress” to “implemented.” AWC nominated the CEP initiative for an Emerald Award in 2016.
- **Recommendation 18:** Updated from “in progress” to “implemented.” Tools are being tested that would allow for public access to the Water Use Reporting data systems.

2018



Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (November 2009)

This recommendation was already marked as implemented. No further updates will be requested in 2019.



Sector Planning for CEP (March 2013)

A minor update was made to reflect that the fourth CEP team completed its work in 2017. All recommendations are now implemented, and no further updates will be requested on this project.

