

Water for Life Implementation Review 2006–2008 Recommendations

Project Team	Rec #	Project Completion	Implementer	Implementation Target	Recommendation	Status at-a-glance			Status *NOTE* The updates below are provided by the identified implementer(s) and do not necessarily reflect the interpretation of the Alberta Water Council
						Implemented	In Progress	Not Under Consideration at this time	
WFLIR	1	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Review the effectiveness of the Government of Alberta's current water education programs, identify any gaps and opportunities for collaboration and take action.	●			Assessment of water education priorities, challenges and opportunities was conducted in 2010. Further to this, at the request of the Government of Alberta, an Alberta Water Council project team will make recommendations in 2015/16 on water literacy in Alberta. The team is conducting a survey to inventory existing water literacy organizations and the programs, products, assessments and research they provide. Outputs of this work will include development of recommendations to AWC on opportunities and gaps for improving water literacy in Alberta.
WFLIR	2	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Address source water protection through watershed and regional planning and integrate with existing and emerging regulatory tools.		●		Captured in ESRD's <i>Guide to Watershed Management Planning</i> and AWC Riparian Land Management Project Team's work. In early 2015, an AWC working group began meeting to develop a terms of reference for a project team that will contribute to the development of a common approach for establishing source water protection plans to be used in all watersheds.
WFLIR	3	4-Jun-09	ESRD; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Develop a source water protection framework to address the effects of non-point source pollution on provincial water quality.		●		AWC recommendations on Non-Point Source Pollution have been received by ESRD and a project lead identified by the Water Policy Branch. Staff members are currently assessing potential alignment and integration with other related work. It is expected that work on several of the AWC recommendations will be initiated early in the 2015-16 fiscal year. However, progress in managing NPS pollution is already occurring as part of related policies and action plans. These include the Regional Land Use Framework Plans and a Load Management Framework that addresses both point source and non-point source pollutions, as well as actions on source water protection in the recently released water conversation Action Plan. While there is indirect action on NPS recommendations, ESRD remains open to more specific policy development as needs arise. Provincial source water protection will also be addressed in an AWC project team in 2015/16 (see Recommendation #2). WPACs: Source water protection is a key theme in watershed management plans being prepared by each WPAC.
WFLIR	4	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Review, enhance and expand existing education and outreach programs for those operating private drinking water systems. Every private drinking water system operator in Alberta should be made aware of available information and how they can access it.	●			Working Well Program three year pilot completed in 2011. Since then ESRD has incorporated the Working Well as an ongoing program. Education resources part of this program.
WFLIR	5	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Review the standards for small public drinking water systems and enhance their accompanying support and monitoring programs.		●		In initial stages, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services developed a voluntary operator training program; operating standards for small systems, information resources to support the operator training program; and conducted an inventory and initial audit of small systems. Together with ESRD, Health is undertaking a project to review and revise drinking water regulations for all systems. Polices are being proposed to introduce drinking water safety plans and address source protection, treatment, and monitoring in small systems.

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WFLIR	6	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Develop a provincial healthy aquatic ecosystems implementation plan, utilizing the findings of the Alberta Water Council's Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Project Team, including clear and timely objectives.		●		The Alberta Wetland Policy White Area implementation is expected to be complete by June 2015. The approval of the Lower Athabasca Phase 2 Surface Water Quantity Management Framework is pending. ESRD is working toward a water allocation guidance document that would provide additional and consistent advice to Water Act Directors based on key fish and wildlife values. Water conversation Action Plan commits to progress on ecosystem health, and specifically for outcomes on lakes.
WFLIR	7	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Develop and implement an enhanced water allocation transfer system.		●		GoA is reviewing the system and has received recommendations from various groups. GoA has not come forward with a plan and schedule for broader public consultation at this time. GoA is committed to ensuring this is completed the 'right' way, rather than completed based on meeting a timeline.
WFLIR	8	4-Jun-09	ESRD; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Continue, but broaden, the examination of innovative water storage solutions. This work should include an examination of ecosystem-based water storage solutions.		●	●	Direction on water storage and water management optimization was tested with Albertans in the water conversation. Collaboration on a storage optimization pilot project in the Bow Basin continues. The water conversation Action Plan commits the GoA to pursue a full range of supply enhancement options, including water conservation and productivity, and conjunctive use; as well as developing tools and models required to operate and evaluate these systems. This includes a pilot project on the Bow River to increase understanding of water storage management opportunities. WPACs: Work continues as WPACs move from developing watershed management plans to collaborating with regional partners to implement recommendations.
WFLIR	9	4-Jun-09	ESRD; AWC & AI-EES	1-Aug-12	Develop mechanisms to coordinate and communicate data, knowledge, and research. Efforts should be made to connect partners and to coordinate among similar research initiatives.	●			Connections between Alberta Innovates - Energy and Environment Solutions and GoA ministries have been successful in a number of projects. Also internal governance mechanisms across GoA such as the WFL Cross Ministry Steering Committee. Also see AWC's Moving from Words to Actions project report.
WFLIR	10	4-Jun-09	ESRD; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Develop a communications plan outlining the key processes and tools that will enable effective and efficient communication and coordination among <i>Water for Life</i> partners including Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Watershed Stewardship Groups, the Alberta Water Council, the Government of Alberta and the public.	●	●		AWC's Moving from Words to Actions project report speaks to communication and coordination among the WFL partnerships. WPACs: Most have a communication plan in place that reflect the recommendations from Moving for Words to Actions
WFLIR	11	4-Jun-09	ESRD; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Ensure the long-term sustainability of <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships.	●		●	Report complete on sustainable funding options. WPACs: While the report was completed, there needs to be action taken to ensure long-term sustainable funding is in place.
WFLIR	12	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	Implement mandatory water use reporting to better understand actual water use by all water-licence holders.	●			Water Use Reporting System (WURS) started in 2005, and is now mandatory. More than 4,500 water diversion licences have been amended to include mandatory water use reporting, representing more than 90% of the allocated water in Alberta.
WFLIR	13	4-Jun-09	ESRD	1-Aug-12	In order to ensure all stakeholders have input to, and support the implementation of, new tools to advance water conservation, efficiency, and productivity, the provincial government should work with the Alberta Water Council to complete the examination of economic instruments.	●			Seven priority water using sectors will have complete CEP plans by March 2012. The Alberta Institute for Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment produced the Ecosystem Services Market Policy Framework in March 2010 for government. Government has also completed reports on economic instruments. There is information on the GoA website about Full Cost Accounting for Municipal Drinking Water Facilities for municipalities to use.