

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

Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Last Status Update (Year provided)	2021 Status	Comments from Latest Update (Please include any new comments in track changes)
1	Review the effectiveness of the Government of Alberta's current water education programs, identify any gaps and opportunities for collaboration and take action.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)	Previously implemented or closed.	Assessment of water education priorities, challenges and opportunities was conducted in 2010. The Alberta Water Council released recommendations on water literacy in 2016, which focused on furthering coordination and support for literacy practitioners in Alberta and continuing to assess literacy levels in the province. AEP is in the process of implementing those recommendations.
2	Address source water protection through watershed and regional planning and integrate with existing and emerging regulatory tools.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)		Source water protection is being addressed through regional planning.
3	Develop a source water protection framework to address the effects of non-point source pollution on provincial water quality.	AEP; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Implemented– Alternative Approach (2019)		GoA: AWC recommendations on Non-Point Source Pollution have been received by AEP. There are several existing programs and ongoing that manage NPS pollution as part of related policies and action plans. These include the Regional Land Use Framework Plans and an emerging Load Management Framework that addresses both point source and non-point source pollution.
				Pending – to be completed (2020)	Pending – to be completed	WPACs: Source water protection is a key theme in watershed management plans being prepared by each WPAC. The Battle WPAC is working closely with the City of Camrose on implementation strategies for their source water protection plan. WPACs are participating on the AWC Source Water Protection Working Group.
4	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.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)	Previously implemented or closed.	Working Well Program three-year pilot completed in 2011. Since then AEP has incorporated the Working Well as an ongoing program. Education resources part of this program. An online drinking water system owner training course is complete.
5	Review the standards for small public drinking water systems and enhance their accompanying support and monitoring programs.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented– Alternative Approach (2020)		Alberta Health is developing drinking water standards for small systems within their jurisdiction. Policies are being proposed to introduce drinking water safety plans and address source protection, treatment, and monitoring in small systems. Alberta Health is anticipating the approval of a guidance document for small public drinking systems (micro-systems) in early 2020.
6	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.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – alternative approach (2018)		The Alberta Wetland Policy was implemented in the White (settled) Area of the Province on June 1, 2015; Green Area (Boreal & Foothills) implementation is scheduled to follow on June 1, 2016. The Surface Water Quantity Management Framework for the Lower Athabasca River was released in March 2015 and implemented in the fall. Mineable oil sands operators are now required to limit their cumulative water withdrawals from the river to volumes specified within the Framework. AEP has finalized a water quantity directive to provide additional and consistent fish and wildlife-based guidance to Water Act Directors for decision making in areas where Water Management Plans and Frameworks do not currently exist.

7	Develop and implement an enhanced water allocation transfer system.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Closed: Not appropriate (2019)		GoA continues to review and considers changes to regulatory system and processes including the allocation transfer system on an ongoing basis. <u>There are currently no plans to make full scale comprehensive changes to the water allocation transfer system as a specific project.</u> Revisions to the system may be considered through other regulatory review projects and as specific circumstances arise in license applications. No further updates. Due to the age of these recommendations they no longer reflect the current priorities of government.
8	Continue, but broaden, the examination of innovative water storage solutions. This work should include an examination of ecosystem-based water storage solutions.	AEP; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Closed: Not appropriate (2019)		GoA: Strategic policy 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 storage optimization pilot project in the Bow River basin to increase understanding of water storage management opportunities. The Alberta Wetland Policy commits Alberta to retain natural water storage features and riparian areas on the landscape as a priority. No further updates. Due to the age of these recommendations they no longer reflect the current priorities of government.
				Pending – to be completed (2020)	Pending – to be completed	WPACs: Work continues as WPACs move from developing watershed management plans to collaborating with regional partners to implement recommendations.
9	Develop mechanisms to coordinate and communicate data, knowledge, and research. Efforts should be made to connect partners and to coordinate among similar research initiatives.	AEP; AWC & AI-EES	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)	Previously implemented or closed.	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.
10	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.	AEP; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Implemented – alternative approach (2018)		GoA: AWC's Moving from Words to Actions project report speaks to communication and coordination among the WFL partnerships.
				Implemented – as written (2018)		WPACs: Most have a communication plan in place that reflect the recommendations from Moving for Words to Actions
11	Ensure the long-term sustainability of <i>Water for Life</i> partnerships.	AEP; WFL Partners	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)		Report complete on sustainable funding options. In 2017, AEP made a commitment to the AWC and WPACs for consistent predictable funding for three years. The Watershed Stewardship Grant was renewed in 2017 for four years and is currently being offered to support projects and efforts of WSGs.
12	Implement mandatory water use reporting to better understand actual water use by all water licence holders.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – as written (2018)		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.
13	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.	AEP	1-Aug-12	Implemented – alternative approach (2018)		Water CEP plans were completed by all seven priority sectors. The seven priority water using sectors have reported on their progress toward a 2015 target of a 30 per cent improvement in overall efficiency and productivity of water use from a baseline year of 2005. The AWC released its fourth CEP report in 2017, evaluating and reporting on the voluntary contributions the sectors have made to date. 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.

