

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

Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Last Status Update (Year provided)	2022 Status	Comments from Latest Update (Please include any new comments in track changes)
1	The Government of Alberta continue to develop, adopt and promote a watershed, risk-based, source-to-tap drinking water management approach that includes source protection planning, effective monitoring and compliance of point and non-point source pollution, and efficient and effective water distribution systems.	GoA		Implemented – Alternative Approach (2019)	Previously Implemented or Closed	Since 2013, municipalities in Alberta are required to develop drinking water safety plans to assess risks to their drinking water systems. However, many municipalities lack the capacity to assess and address source water risks. Presently, several source water protection plans and initiatives have been developed or are underway to address risks to drinking water sources in Alberta. For example, source water protection plans have been developed for Edmonton, Camrose, Calgary, Town of Okotoks, and Grande Cache. Other source water protection initiatives are currently underway for the Milk River – Whiskey Gap Aquifer and Sheep River sub-watershed. The Government of Alberta continues to provide technical support, monitoring, data and resources to support drinking water risks assessments and source protection initiatives as needed. This is now a part of ongoing work.
2	The Government of Alberta and stakeholders complete outstanding Healthy Aquatic Ecosystem actions including: finalize and implement a wetland policy (Action 2.1), protect critical aquatic ecosystems (Action 2.2) and set water conservation objectives for each basin (Action 2.5).	GoA and stakeholders		Implemented – Alternative Approach (2019)		<p>GoA: Wetland Policy is being implemented in the green and white areas.</p> <p>ASN (for WSGs): In 2015, the Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) established new category of support through the “Wetland Grant” stream. Groups that received funding under this stream focused their projects on building awareness and stewardship capacity to conserve, restore and protect wetlands in Alberta, and in particular, wetlands of the highest value – directly in support of Alberta’s Wetland Policy. Currently, the WSG enables stewardship groups to engage in community – based projects that focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the awareness and understanding of local watershed issues. • Demonstrating, testing, or displaying various watershed management options. • Building membership and organizational capacity. • Measuring and reporting on environmental and social indicators of watershed health. • Developing management plans for and engaging in physical, on-the-ground activities to improve the condition of local watersheds and water bodies. <p>WPACs: All WPACs are implementing actions that contribute to the management of water quantity, water quality, flows, and conservation as appropriate for their basins. WPACs implement riparian and wetlands restoration and conservation – important components of healthy aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Large Urban: Riparian monitoring shows restorations projects are improving the health of riparian areas and protecting our waterways.</p>
3	The Government of Alberta continue to work with its partners to: develop the best available science-based methods and tools to better define requirements for healthy aquatic ecosystems and performance measures; incorporate healthy aquatic ecosystem assessment and management into the province’s new integrated cumulative effects monitoring and management systems; and publicly report on progress towards the achievement of healthy aquatic ecosystem outcomes.	GoA and partners		Implemented: Alternative Approach (2019)		Environmental Monitoring and Science is accountable for assessing and monitoring (MER) healthy aquatic ecosystems. Future programs will be developed according to determined priorities. This is now a part of ongoing work, as a science based 5-year lotic monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan for the province is complete and public release is imminent. This plan identifies key science questions related to watershed integrity and ecosystem health.
4	The Government of Alberta complete the water allocation review via transparent, broad-based public consultation based on socio-economic and environmental objectives; ensure current and future water demand and supply are understood in each basin; and make this information and other water use data publicly available to inform regional, municipal and other land-use planning initiatives.	GoA		Implemented – Alternative Approach (2019)		While some specific deliverables originally conceived under <i>Water for Life</i> have not been fully addressed, the core philosophy and principles of Alberta’s water strategy have been fostered and embedded within the management, operations, and policy and planning functions within the department. The GoA recognizes the importance of water allocation issues and acknowledges there are unresolved stakeholder concerns and differences of opinion amongst Albertans about water. Research on management options and renewal of

						elements of the water management continue as a matter of normal ongoing regulatory practices; a broad-based systemic review of the water allocation, management and regulatory system is not being considered. This is now a part of ongoing work, and has been implanted to the extent possible.
5	The Government of Alberta and its <i>Water for Life</i> partners, working closely with research and academic institutions and other education and outreach providers, revisit the knowledge and research key direction and develop a plan to improve public and sector understanding of the value of water to better inform public policy and decision making.	GoA and WFL partners		Previously Implemented or Closed		<p>GoA: The Government of Alberta has released the Alberta Water Research Strategy (updated 2014), which provides guidance for water research priorities within the province. The strategy is co-led between Alberta Economic Development and Alberta Environment. Updates on the progress of the strategy are released annually and available through the Economic Development website.</p> <p>Large Urban: Partnerships with researchers continue to refine understanding of risk in watersheds that provide drinking water for many Albertans. This includes understanding of the impact of forest fires in source watersheds.</p> <p>AWC: AWC focuses on improving sector and stakeholder understanding of water and its value. Board receives an annual update on the Alberta Innovates Water Innovation Program as well as other relevant topics throughout the year. Ten-year Water CEP project helped raise the profile of water within industries and municipalities. AWC hosted the Water Reuse Symposium in 2013 which brought academics and experts together to inform and highlight the need for better understanding of the use and reuse of water across all stakeholder groups. AWC contributes annually to the AWRIS annual report. Building on the outcomes of the 2013 Water Conversation, AWC work in water literacy contributed to the GoA's environmental literacy framework.</p> <p>WPACs: WPACs conduct public education (e.g., producing watershed 101 videos) on a number of topics related to water and watersheds, reaching thousands of Albertans from many different backgrounds every year. These WPAC initiatives build awareness, support public discourse and improve decision-making as appropriate for each basin.</p>
6	<i>Water for Life</i> partnerships clearly identify their capacity needs in relation to provincial and basin <i>Water for Life</i> priorities and seek collaborative approaches to long-term sustainable resourcing of these needs.	WFL Partnerships		Previously Implemented or Closed		<p>GoA: GoA has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate support to Water for Life partnerships through ongoing relationships and funding support.</p> <p>AWC: In 2017 the AWC received a commitment for consistent predictable funding for three years from AEP to support operations to achieve its mandate as laid out in the current business plan. Project specific funding is sought from sectors as needed.</p>
				Pending – to be completed (2020)	Partially Implemented (2022)	<p>WPACs: All WPACs operate as collaborative, multi-sector organizations that support WFL goals while also advancing community watershed priorities. Each WPAC has individually identified its own capacity needs, relative to its strategic plan/budget. WPACs are successfully leveraging partnerships to support shared priorities and continue to foster effective collaborations at the basin scale, bringing together multiple partners in service of WFL goals.</p>
				Pending – to be completed (2020)	Pending – to be completed (2022)	<p>ASN (for WSGs): LSC continues to offer funding, information, and resources for WSGs. LSC distributes its e-newsletter, Grassroots News, bi-monthly to over 800 subscribers, engaging the stewardship community, sharing the good work of watershed stewardship groups, and providing information to enable and inform the stewardship community. LSC also shares stewardship news, events and funding via our social media channels which have a combined following of over 2,200 people. LSC continues to host our Stewards in Motion (SIM) workshop series which focuses on topic areas identified by the stewardship community in Alberta. SIM topics range from grant writing and fund development, managing social media accounts and Indigenous engagement.</p> <p>The Watershed Stewardship Grant program continues to serve a core need for community-based stewardship groups. Since 2006, the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, made</p>

						<p>possible with funding from Alberta Environment and Parks, has provided grants to the province's stewardship community to support their efforts. Since then, over 180 grassroots watershed stewardship groups have received more than \$2,500,000 and leveraged an additional \$3,250,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to develop and implement over 360 projects in communities across Alberta.</p> <p>Large Urban: Regional collaboration was advanced through the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board to develop a long-term Growth Plan and Servicing Plan, ensuring appropriate regional growth support through an integrated watershed management approach.</p>
7	Water-using sectors with water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) plans raise awareness of their plans by promoting them to their members, thus encouraging all members to develop individual CEP plans or strategies to contribute to CEP gains.	Water-Using sectors with CEP plans		Pending – to be completed (2020)	Pending – to be completed (2020)	<p>The sector organizations that developed CEP plans work very closely with their members and raise awareness of the plans. Updates to the AWC on the implementation status of sector CEP plans were provided in 2015.</p> <p>Individual sectors provided their own assessments of the status of this recommendation, and some consider it implemented. The overall status on the left reflects that, for some sectors, this recommendation is still considered pending.</p> <p>Irrigation: Implemented (as written). The Alberta Irrigation Projects Association continues to raise awareness among its member irrigation districts of the importance of water CEP plans and provides support where required. Members continue to develop actions and strategies in support of the irrigation sector CEP plan.</p> <p>Forestry: Implemented.</p> <p>Downstream petroleum: Pending (to be completed). Canadian Fuels Association promotes CEP through its Water Network and in 2019 updated the Water Primer publication with CEP examples on the Canadian Fuels website.</p> <p>AUMA: Implemented (unclear but met). AUMA provided a report on Water CEP trends and progress to the Alberta Water Council in 2015. AUMA continues to monitor progress as data comes available from municipalities, the Government of Alberta and Statistics Canada. AUMA continues to share information with members related to water CEP through our Water Management Hub.</p> <p>RMA: Implemented (unclear but met): As identified through the AWC's project team process, the RMA continues to support the CEP Plan developed by AUMA as it is more applicable to urban municipalities as a major water using sector. As rural municipalities are not formally part of the AUMA's CEP Plan, the RMA continues to share AUMA's Water Hub as a resource for rural municipalities interested in exploring CEP plan development opportunities. Rural municipalities with water licenses continue to provide water use data through the Water Use Reporting System (WURs) as required to support tracking and transparency.</p> <p>Chemical: Pending (to be completed). Active participation in recently completed evaluation of water CEP released in 2017. Will continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance water use efficiency.</p> <p>Power Generation: All AWC power generation sector members actively contribute to the 5-year review by sharing their successes on CEP progress and improvements.</p>
8	The Government of Alberta investigate the use of additional economic instruments, applied in an equitable manner, to encourage water conservation, efficiency and productivity and determine how this approach will contribute to the achievement of all three <i>Water for Life</i> goals.	GoA		Implemented – alternative approach (2018)	Previously Implemented or Closed	<p>The Department routinely considers all forms of policy tools to address arising water management issues. Economic instruments are one form of policy tool. One key economic instrument implemented in the <i>Water Act</i> is water licence trading and temporary licence assignment. The Department develops and updates legislated water management basin plans to facilitate the use of this economic instrument. There are also specific use of works</p>

						charges for water in the province.
9	<i>Water for Life</i> partnerships, in undertaking iterative and adaptive watershed assessment and planning, continue to work with the Government of Alberta and other sectors to integrate this work into the provincial cumulative effects management system and regional, municipal, resource and other land-use planning initiatives.	WFL partnerships and GoA		Implemented – unclear but met (2018)		<p>GoA: Watershed assessment and planning products developed by partnerships are reviewed by GoA and used to inform and/or incorporate relevant elements into the GoA’s planning system. GoA has produced a Guide to Watershed Management Planning in Alberta, 2015 to provide clarity of how these plans relate to other water planning initiatives, and the processes to be used by WPACs and WSGs to ensure some consistency among plans. GoA has commenced a review of the WPAC partnership and the roles and functional responsibilities needed to enhance Alberta’s water management system. A recommendations report for role amendments is anticipated in March 2018. GoA has engaged WPACs directly in support of the development of key water related strategic directions and management frameworks as part of SSR and NSR planning.</p> <p>Large Urban: City of Calgary updated their Source Water Protection Plan that is supported by several community and regional stakeholders. Source water protection is a coordinated risk management approach that provides the first line of defense in a multi-barrier approach to providing safe, clean drinking water. Coordinated effort has emerged to collect wastewater samples from wastewater treatment plants and targeted areas within the collection system. Samples were provided to the Universities for analysis and early detection of the COVID variant virus within wastewater. Alberta Health Services is funding the project and is conducting a Pan Alberta study.</p>
				Closed – not appropriate (2018)		AWC: AWC does not undertake watershed assessment and planning.
				Implemented – unclear but met		WPACs: WPACs continue to provide water and watershed management advice to municipal, resource, provincial and federal policy and planning processes and continue to encourage the GoA and AWC to look at how to strengthen water governance in Alberta.
10	The Government of Alberta develop quantitative performance criteria and clear metrics that assess the progress towards <i>Water for Life</i> goals and key directions before the next Alberta Water Council strategy review in 2015.	GoA	2015	Closed – not a priority (2018)		Alberta Environment reports quantifiable measures in its Annual Report.