

Wetland Policy Implementation Plan Recommendations

Project Team	Rec #	Project Completion	Implementer	Implementation Target	Recommendation	Status at-a-glance			Status
						Implemented	In Progress	Not Under Consideration at this time	
Wetland Policy IP	1.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Implement the Wetland Mitigation Decision Framework across the province, using avoidance, minimization or compensation for all Water Act approvals and/or licenses (including temporary approvals to take water from wetlands) that affect wetlands, through the Water Act approval process.		●		<p><b>*NOTE*</b> The updates below are provided by the identified implementer(s) and do not necessarily reflect the interpretation of the Alberta Water Council</p> <p>Recommendations were thoroughly considered in preparation of the Alberta Wetland Policy. Recommendations have also been a key resource in preparation of the policy implementation plan. Lastly, they form the basis for development of operational tools and mechanisms under the Alberta Wetland Policy, which is currently underway.</p>
Wetland Policy IP	1.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop guidelines on how to avoid (e.g. smart-growth planning) and how to minimize (e.g. maintaining wetland hydrology through the use of flow-through culverts) development impacts, using sound ecological principles and the best science available.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	1.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Working with stakeholders, develop guidance for compensation to support the policy. Until new guides are developed, the Provincial Wetland Restoration/Compensation Guide (2007) will continue to provide guidance to the regulator for the White Area.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	1.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Review the literature and provide evidence on appropriate implementation of the area-based approach for Alberta that can be incorporated into the revised Provincial Wetland Restoration/Compensation Guide.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	1.2.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop a research and/or pilot program to assess the scientific and economic feasibility of moving toward a function-based rather than an area-based approach for compensation.			●	
Wetland Policy IP	1.2.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Long-term	If successful, incorporate the option of a function-based approach into the revised Provincial Wetland Restoration/Compensation Guide.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	1.3.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Explore a regulatory framework for mitigation banks as a compensation option for wetland loss and, if established under the appropriate legislative component, ensure these banks are appropriately regulated in law.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	1.3.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	If proceeding with mitigation banking, establish criteria for suitable providers of mitigation banks and maintain a registry of approved bankers.		●		

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Wetland Policy IP	1.3.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	If proceeding with mitigation banking, set up a monitoring system to support and help achieve the policy goal.
Wetland Policy IP	1.3.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Explore systems of trading wetland credits to provide mechanisms that reward stewardship actions on private land as appropriate.
Wetland Policy IP	1.3.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Develop a repository of restoration opportunities.
Wetland Policy IP	1.4.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Compile existing information on best practices through a review and assessment of the literature and existing restoration, construction and enhancement projects, within the last five to ten years in Alberta and elsewhere.
Wetland Policy IP	1.4.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Provide guidelines on the best practices for restored, constructed and enhanced wetland design and monitoring for various landscapes.
Wetland Policy IP	1.4.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop consistent monitoring protocols, conditions for requirement under the <i>Water Act</i> , and assessment tools to assess wetland health and functions, for individual constructed, restored and enhanced wetlands, and on a landscape level.
Wetland Policy IP	2.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	With stakeholders, develop a guidance framework for establishing watershed and regional wetland objectives.
Wetland Policy IP	2.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Ensure that a sound knowledge foundation supports and informs the objective-setting process, including inventory, watershed models and other predictive tools.
Wetland Policy IP	2.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA, WPACs	Short-term	Examine how a watershed or water management plan developed under the provisions of the <i>Water Act</i> , or any future revisions of those plans, would recognize the Wetland Policy.
Wetland Policy IP	2.1.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Improve access to provincial wetland inventory information to municipalities, industry, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, or other multi-stakeholder groups, to use in the development of wetland objectives for watershed management and other planning processes.
Wetland Policy IP	2.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA, WFL Partners	Short-term	Incorporate wetland objectives from the watershed and/or regional scale into the programs, initiatives and directives of the GOA and its partners.
Wetland Policy IP	3.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Create and maintain a website repository of provincial, municipal and federal legislative tools and directives, and common law pertaining to or potentially impacting wetlands.

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Wetland Policy IP	3.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Revise and update "Alberta's Wetlands: A Law and Policy Guide" to incorporate the Alberta Wetland Policy.
Wetland Policy IP	3.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Establish and manage a process to review all appropriate legislation, policies, directives and intergovernmental processes for consistency and alignment with the Alberta Wetland Policy.
Wetland Policy IP	3.1.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	When developing new regulatory or policy instruments, government bodies and delegates will ensure that the policy is appropriately incorporated in all areas of the province.
Wetland Policy IP	3.1.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Integrate the policy into the determination of equivalent land capability for the purposes of reclamation under the <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i> .
Wetland Policy IP	3.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Build capacity in the regional regulatory approvals and inspection system to successfully implement the Alberta Wetland Policy.
Wetland Policy IP	3.2.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	When a government body or delegate is a proponent of a proposed project or an activity that could impact a wetland, it will ensure that the policy is implemented in the proposal and project or activity process.
Wetland Policy IP	3.2.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Where a government body or delegate plays an approval, referral or other role in a regulatory process (including public land dispositions), the entity will ensure that the policy is implemented in the process.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Work with Municipal Affairs to strengthen the current requirements under the Municipal Government Act where municipalities "may consider" environmental matters in preparing their Municipal Development Plans and are not required to consider environmental matters when developing Area Structure Plans.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Work with Municipal Affairs to review the wetland conservation provisions in the Land Use Policies under the Municipal Government Act and consider broadening the environmental reserve and setback provisions to allow for a range of uses to manage lands within municipalities, including the protection of other environmental purposes/components based on the best available science; or develop a new Wetland Reserve, or Ecological Reserve dedication clause.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Set up a committee with municipalities, Métis Settlements and Summer Villages to investigate how GOA can better support their efforts to protect wetlands within their jurisdiction.

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Wetland Policy IP	3.3.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Revise the Land-Use Framework to require municipal land use plans, including the Municipal Development Plan, bylaws (including zoning bylaws), and actions to reflect and incorporate the Alberta Wetland Policy.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop and implement an education and awareness program for municipalities to review and align with provincial legislation and directives.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.6	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Review the federal wetland policy and ensure there is congruence with the provincial policy on federal lands in Alberta.
Wetland Policy IP	3.3.7	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Provide guidance that considers wetlands and mosquito abatement, health considerations, pesticide use and wetland drainage practices.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Create a wetland education plan that provides an overarching framework for developing and coordinating wetland education and outreach activities to targeted audiences.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Continue to develop, update and deliver wetland education material for grades 5, 8 and 12 school curriculums.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop and use targeted education, awareness and compliance programs, including social-based marketing programs, to discourage draining of ephemeral water bodies and other wetlands.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop, communicate and share beneficial management practices for activities in and around wetlands.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Integrate the wetland education plan with existing programs like Cows and Fish and the Alberta Stewardship Network, and disseminate it to other organizations, government departments and stakeholder organizations.
Wetland Policy IP	4.1.6	16-Sep-08	GoA, FN, MSGC	Medium-term	Work with First Nations, Métis Settlements and other Aboriginal communities and individuals to develop an increased awareness of wetland values and functions using traditional knowledge and ecological perspectives.
Wetland Policy IP	4.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop education and communication materials and programs on the <i>Water Act</i> and the value of ephemeral water bodies, appropriate for the intended audience.
Wetland Policy IP	4.2.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Using the social-based community marketing approach, incorporate education and communication materials on the value of ephemeral water bodies into education initiatives, where appropriate.

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Wetland Policy IP	4.2.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop and communicate beneficial management practices and/or codes of practice for activities around ephemeral water bodies when they are dry, such as grazing, haying, hunting and gathering, linear disturbance, etc.
Wetland Policy IP	4.2.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Long-term	Determine performance measures and annually review education initiatives to determine beneficial management practice adoption.
Wetland Policy IP	4.2.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Long-term	Undertake research to better understand the value and functions of ephemeral water bodies, their status including their rate of occurrence and/or loss, and the cumulative impact of current and future impacts including climate change.
Wetland Policy IP	5.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Identify, review and communicate (i.e. develop a landowner directory) of existing incentives, including matters relating to tax assessment (e.g. conservation easement and agriculture property tax issues) to encourage the protection, conservation and restoration of wetlands.
Wetland Policy IP	5.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop a Wetland Stewardship recognition program as an incentive by identifying, encouraging, promoting and awarding innovative and effective wetland protection, conservation and restoration efforts by governments, industry, conservation organizations and individuals.
Wetland Policy IP	5.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Undertake a review of existing and new incentives in Alberta and other jurisdictions to explore the development of new incentives including market incentives that encourage protecting, conserving and restoring wetlands.
Wetland Policy IP	5.2.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Undertake a review of the use of mitigation banking and credit trading in other jurisdictions to determine if such market-based mechanisms create monetary value and provide incentive for landowners to protect wetlands.
Wetland Policy IP	5.2.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Explore incentives to reduce costs (e.g. expenses/fees for legal, planning, surveying and accounting) that are a barrier to using conservation easements. GOA could provide incentives to cover costs.
Wetland Policy IP	5.2.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Explore the development of incentive programs to encourage academia, industry and others to undertake research and innovation projects to improve all aspects of wetland management.
Wetland Policy IP	5.3.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	All GOA departments and agencies should review and revise relevant policies, programs, directives, statutes and departmental or agency regulations to identify and remove disincentives to wetland protection, conservation and restoration.

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Wetland Policy IP	6.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop and fund a wetland research plan that identifies current research needs and priorities.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Create a mechanism to distribute the results of wetland research and monitoring to water and land managers.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Promote research efforts to better understand effectiveness of restoration activities.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.2.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Establish a wetland classification system (or systems) that reflect all areas of Alberta and that meets the needs of stakeholders.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.2.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Communicate the classification system to stakeholders and use it in wetland inventories, landscape assessments and other tools.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.3.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Develop provincial wetland inventory data standards, including how frequently inventories will be repeated.				
Wetland Policy IP	6.3.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop a seamless provincial wetland inventory of the distribution of wetland classes in Alberta.	●			Subject to continuous improvement.
Wetland Policy IP	6.3.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Disseminate provincial wetland inventories to municipalities, industry, First Nations, Métis Settlements and other Aboriginal communities for use in their planning and development activities, as soon as available.	●			Subject to continuous improvement.
Wetland Policy IP	6.3.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Where applicable, through the Environmental Impact Assessment process under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, ensure any required wetland inventories are conducted using the provincial inventory and classification standards, and that such data are supplied to the GOA for compilation in the provincial wetland inventory database.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	6.3.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Long-term	Classify and incorporate into the provincial wetland inventory any restored, constructed and enhanced wetlands.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	6.4.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop a standardized methodology, appropriate indicators, and guidance material for conducting individual and landscape-level wetland health assessments.		●		
Wetland Policy IP	6.4.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Where appropriate, develop long-term wetland monitoring programs for assessing wetland health.		●		

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Wetland Policy IP	6.4.3	16-Sep-08	GoA, WPACs	Long-term	Periodically evaluate, at various scales, the rate and extent of wetland degradation and loss, as well as any associated watershed impairment. This information should be integrated with other <i>State of the Watershed</i> reporting and planning processes.
Wetland Policy IP	6.4.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Improve understanding of the relationship of wetlands to ground and surface water quality and supply.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Develop criteria, an accreditation process and a registry to promote the development of Wetland Restoration and Construction Agencies.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Hold awareness and training workshops with interested parties to improve expertise and share learnings on wetland restoration, construction and enhancement techniques, and in what is required to become accredited.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Encourage research, development and continuous improvement of restoration, construction and enhancement techniques.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.4	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Provide users with the appropriate guidelines, and best practices for restoring, constructing and enhancing functioning wetlands in natural and working landscapes, particularly for areas of mining, urban stormwater management, road-building and municipal development.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop monitoring protocols for constructed and restored wetlands for various landscapes.
Wetland Policy IP	6.5.6	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Ensure restoration, construction and enhancement guidelines and codes of practices for various sectors are consistent with the overarching policy goals and outcomes.
Wetland Policy IP	6.6.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Encourage post-secondary institutions to provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to develop knowledge and understanding of wetland functions and processes.
Wetland Policy IP	6.6.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop, facilitate and promote the use of professional educational opportunities.
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.1	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Establish a process, criteria, tools and programs for identifying, designating and protecting local, regional and provincial wetlands of exceptional value.
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.2	16-Sep-08	GoA	Immediate	Where appropriate, investigate using statutory and policy tools to designate wetlands of exceptional value for protection.

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To be termed "Wetland Replacement Agent"

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Wetland Policy IP	7.1.3	16-Sep-08	GoA	Short-term	Where wetlands suitable for protection have been identified on Crown land, utilize existing tools to protect and identify these areas within GOA databases (e.g. protective notation) so that developers, regulators and approvals staff are aware of wetland status.					●			
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.4	16-Sep-08	GoA, AUMA, AAMDC	Immediate	When municipalities approve subdivision of land, use environmental reserve dedications to protect wetlands of exceptional value in the development area.					●			
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.5	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Work with Land Trusts and other appropriate organizations to encourage the use of conservation easements to protect wetlands of exceptional value.					●			
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.6	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Where appropriate, purchase or lease lands and designate them as appropriate to protect wetlands of exceptional value.						●		
Wetland Policy IP	7.1.7	16-Sep-08	GoA	Medium-term	Develop guidelines for appropriate use of low-impact activities (bird-watching, gathering natural foods, etc.) on wetlands of exceptional value, including when water is absent.					●			