



Wetland Policy Implementation Review

Submitted by the Alberta Water Council

STRATEGIC INTENT (GOAL)

The purpose of the **Wetland Policy Implementation Review (Wetland Review)** is to:

1. Identify potential performance measures¹ for the goal, outcomes, and strategic directions² of the Alberta Wetland Policy
2. Describe the challenges, opportunities, or unintended consequences experienced by sectors in the implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy

The Wetland Review project is intended to support continuous improvement and public reporting on the efficiency and effectiveness of Alberta Wetland Policy implementation.

OBJECTIVES

The Wetland Review project has three objectives:

1. **Preliminary Review**
2. **Cross-Sector Input**
3. **Finalize Review and Report**

KEY TASKS

1. Preliminary Review

- Develop a common understanding of policy terms and characterize successful policy implementation
- Understand current performance measures being used by the Government of Alberta
- Describe potential performance measures by goal, outcome, and direction
- Describe top challenges, opportunities, and unintended consequences experienced through implementation to date
- Create draft perspectives report for cross-sector input

Alberta Wetland Policy (2013)

Policy Goal:

Conserve, restore, protect, and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society, and the economy.

Outcomes:

1. *Wetlands of the highest value are protected for the long-term benefit of Albertans*
2. *Wetlands and their benefits are conserved and restored in areas where losses have been high*
3. *Wetlands are managed by avoiding, minimizing and if necessary, replacing lost wetland value*
4. *Wetland Management considers regional context*

Strategic Directions

- A. *Enable flexible wetland management*
- B. *Build effective tools, knowledge, and capacity*
- C. *Encourage conservation of wetlands and voluntary stewardship*

¹ The working group noted that performance measures would reflect the most relevant spatial scale for effective assessment of policy performance (e.g., white and green zones, regions or subregions, watersheds or sub-watersheds, etc.).

² The project is intentionally focused on the policy goal, outcome, and strategic direction statements, because the working group directed that the implementation review remains at a strategic level.

2. Cross-Sector Input

- Design engagement for effective and timely input and review by sectors
- Engage with sectors and gather perspectives on top challenges, opportunities, and unintended consequences experienced through implementation to date

3. Finalize Review and Report

- Identify a select few performance measures with rationale
- Identify a select few high-impact challenges, opportunities, and unintended consequences experienced across sectors with rationale
- Draft the final perspectives report for AWC approval and submission to the Government of Alberta

TIMELINES and DELIVERABLES

The project team will provide the following deliverables to the AWC:

- **Monthly written updates to the AWC board**
- **Approval of the Wetland Review Project terms of reference..... Nov 2020**
- **Preliminary Review..... Nov 2020 – Dec 2020**
- **Cross-Sector Input..... Jan 2021 – Feb 2021**
- **Finalize Review and Report..... Feb 2021 – Mar 2021**
- **Submit Final Report..... Mar 2021**

MEMBERSHIP

The Project Team includes 21 representation from some Indigenous groups, Industry, Non-Government Organizations, Government, and Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities sector groups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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