

Alberta Water Council

AEPA Ag Forum Presentation

Gord Edwards

March 15, 2011

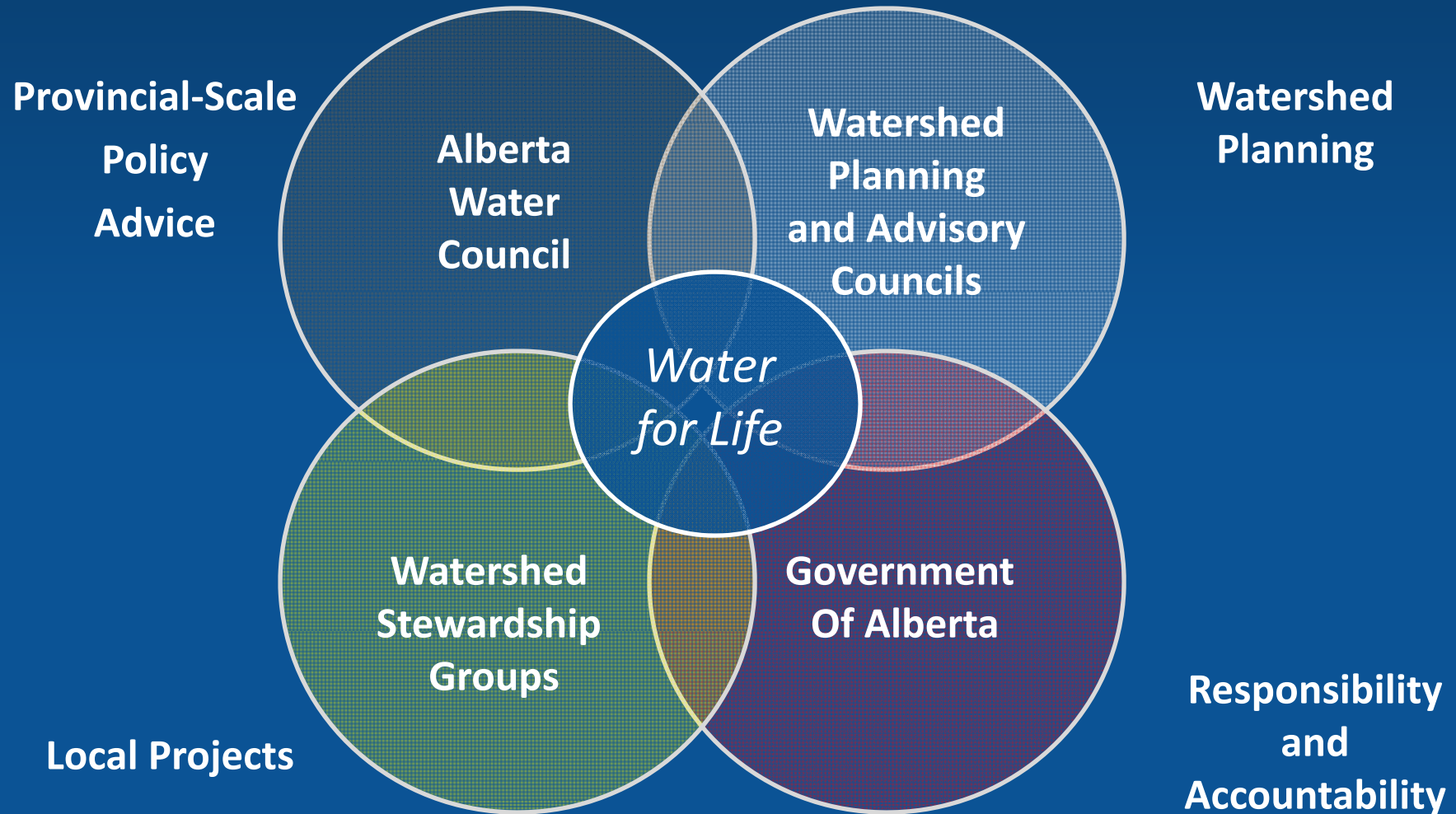
The Alberta Water Council

- A multi-stakeholder partnership of 25 industry, NGO, and government sectors with an interest in water
- Uses consensus decision making
- In 2007, the Council transitioned to become a not-for-profit society

What do we do?

- Steward the Implementation of *Water for Life*
- Provide Valued Policy Advice
- Provide a Forum for Discussion and Resolution of Water Issues

The *Water for Life* partnerships:



Alberta Water Council Sectors:

Industry

- Chemical and Petrochemical
- Cropping
- Forestry
- Irrigation
- Livestock
- Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Power Generation

NGO

- Environmental (3 seats)
- Fishery Habitat Conservation
- Lake Environment Conservation
- Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils
- Wetland Conservation

Alberta Water Council Sectors:

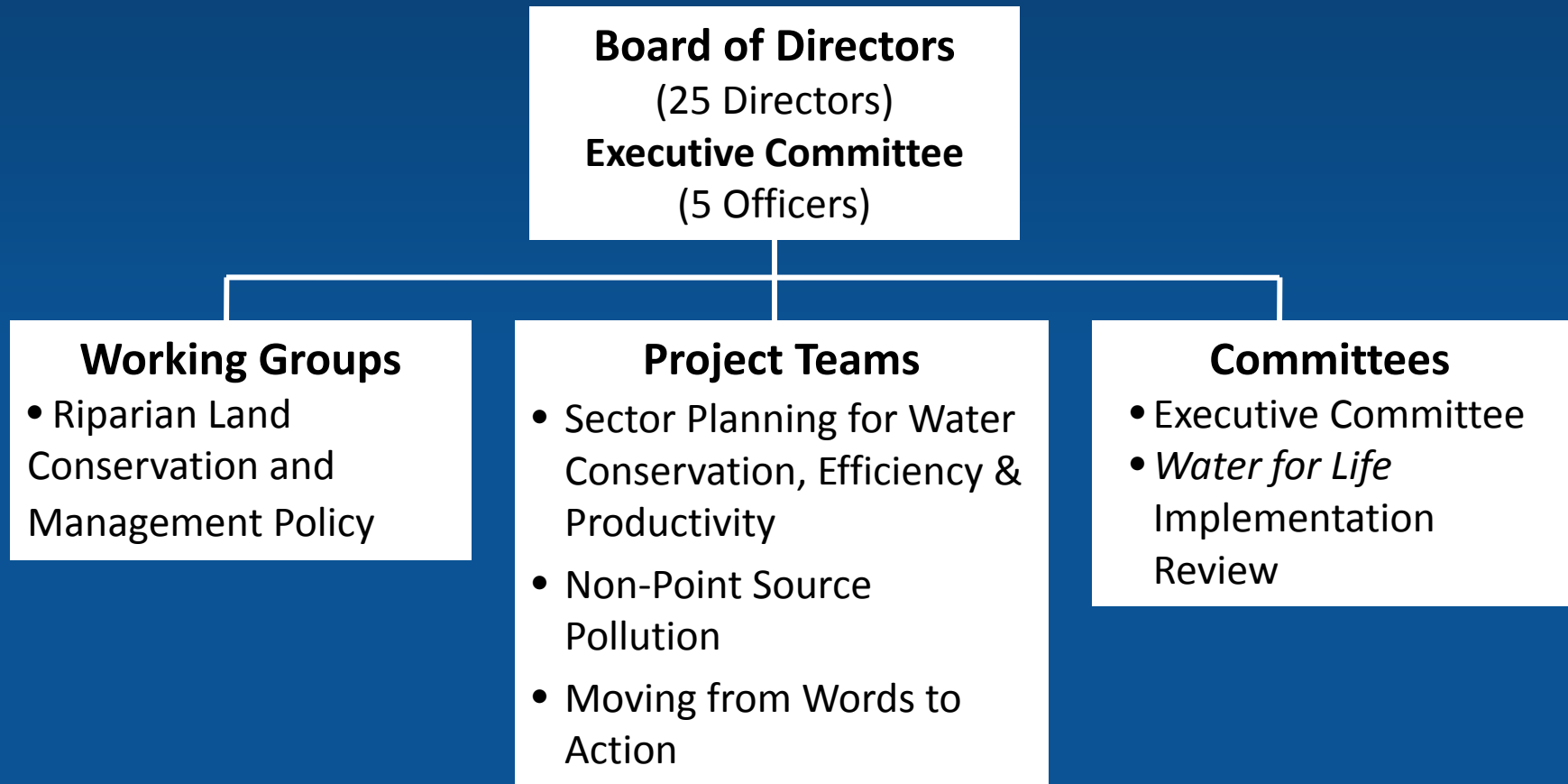
Provincial Government

- Agriculture & Rural Development
- Energy
- Environment
- Sustainable Resource Development
- Health & Wellness
- Alberta Water Research Institute

Other Government

- Rural
- Small Urban
- Large Urban
- Métis Settlements
- * Treaty 6, 7, & 8
- * Federal Government

AWC Structure

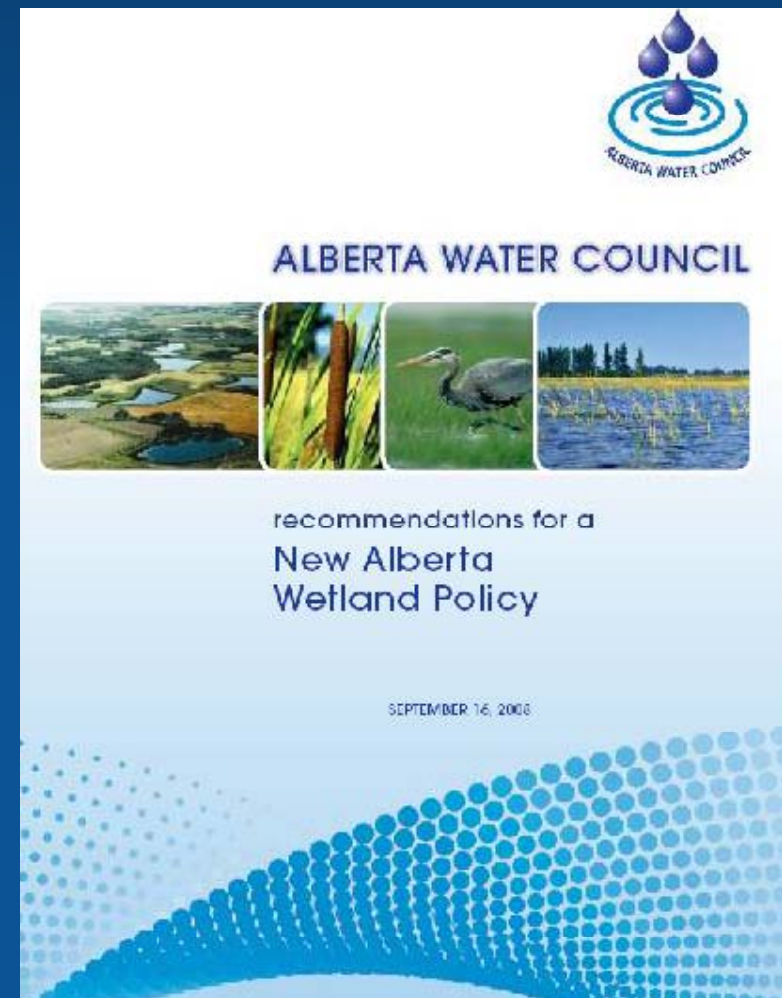


AWC Completed Projects

2009	Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Project
2009	Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (PEACH)
2009	Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade
2008	Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan
2008	Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Framework
2008	Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning
2008	Water 4 Life Implementation Review 2006-2008
2008	Water Strategy Renewal
2008	Intra-Basin Water Movement
2007	Water Policy Issues and Gaps
2006	Water Research Strategy

Wetland Policy & Implementation Plan

- Team was tasked with developing a provincial Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan
- In September 2008 Council transmitted its reports to the Minister of Environment
- Provides advice on managing and protecting wetlands in Alberta



Water Allocation Transfer System

- Opportunity to improve Alberta's water allocation transfer system so it better contributes to *Water for Life* goals
- The Council's report forms part of larger package informing a review of the water allocation system by Province
 - AWRI and Minister's Advisory Committee reports complete the package
- Why review the transfer system?
 - Improvements can benefit aquatic ecosystem, help address social & economic water demands, and support water conservation

Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems

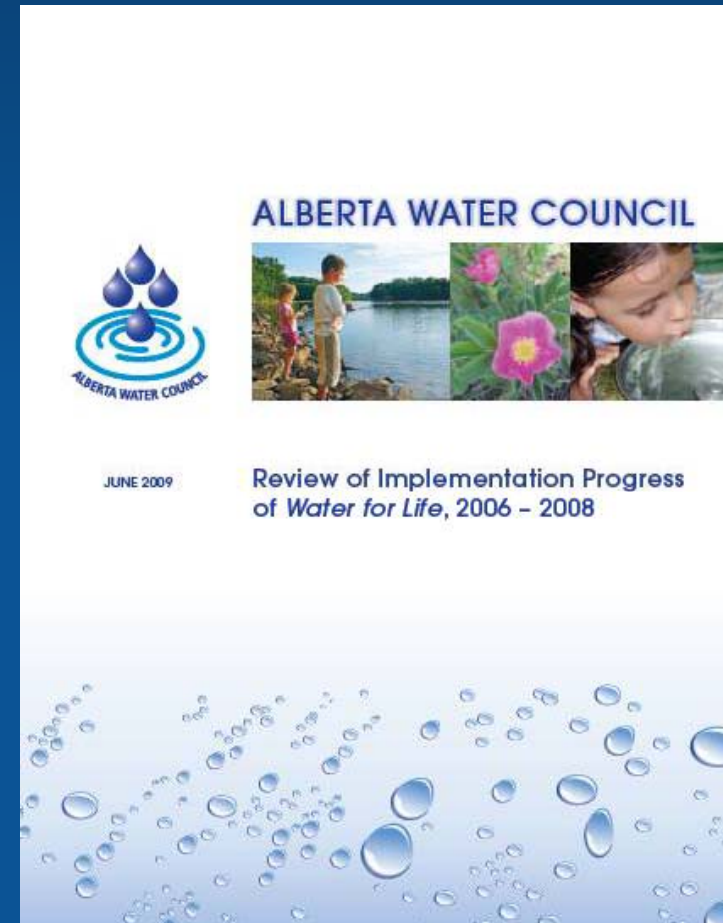
- Council developed a definition of *healthy aquatic ecosystems* and recommended new areas of work to advance this goal
- Why develop a definition & recommend projects?
 - During the first five years of *WFL's* implementation, less emphasis was placed on achieving the goal of *healthy aquatic ecosystems* and as a result, it is behind schedule.
 - The Council recognized an opportunity to provide a foundation and direction for future work.

Current AWC Projects

AWC Projects	Start	Finish
<i>Water for Life</i> Implementation Review	April 2011	June 2012
Moving from Words to Actions	June 2010	June 2011
Sector Planning for Water CEP	March 2009	October 2011
Non-Point Source Pollution	June 2010	March 2012
Riparian Land Conservation and Management Policy	March 2011	June 2012

WFL Implementation Review

- Assesses the status, effectiveness, and progress of activities being implemented under the strategy
- Will provide advice and recommendations for improvements, based on this assessment
- Will soon be launching our fourth review, which is expected in summer 2012

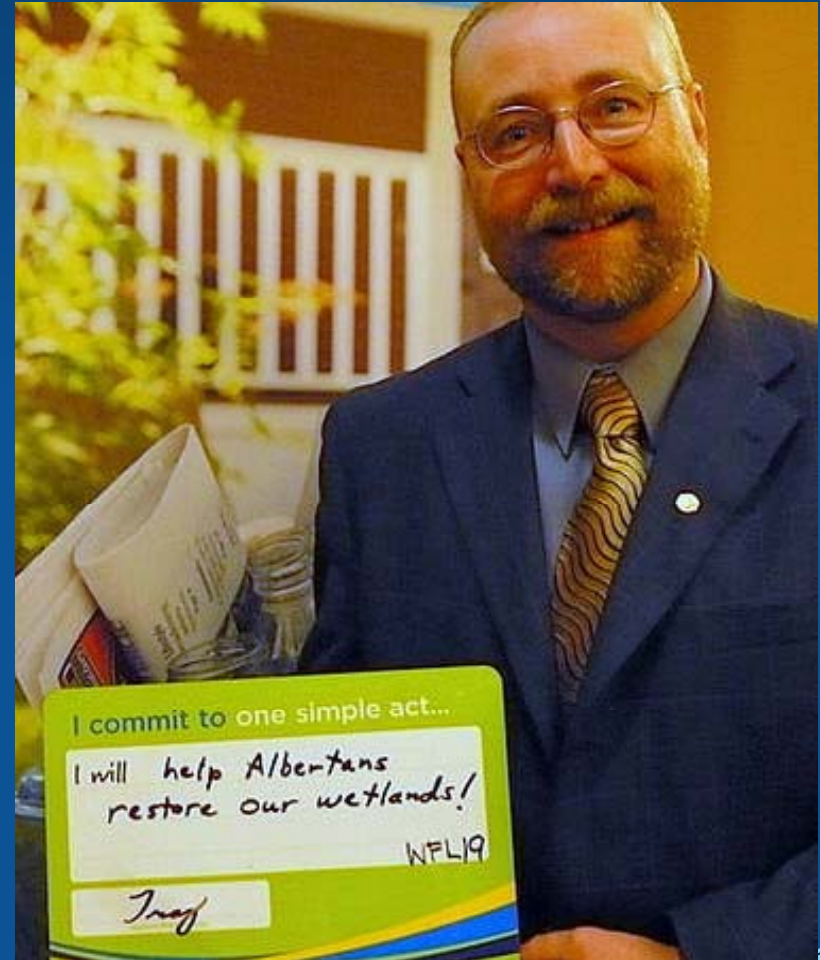


Why Review *WFL* Strategy?

- Part of the Council's core business is to regularly review implementation progress of the *WFL* strategy
- Provides feedback and recommendations to the GoA and other stakeholders to help advance the achievement of the *WFL* strategy's three goals:
 - Safe, secure drinking water supply
 - Healthy aquatic ecosystems, and
 - Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

Moving from Words to Actions

- The purpose of this project is to improve coordination and communication between and among *Water for Life* partnerships so they can identify and more effectively address shared strategic priorities.



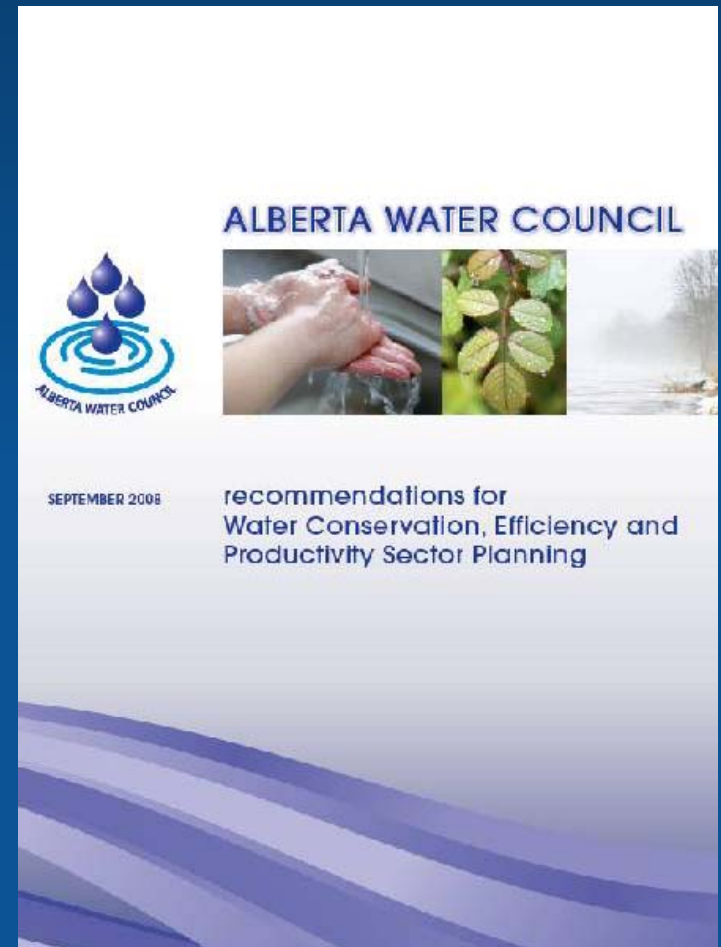
Moving from Words to Actions

Project Objective

- To better align priorities, coordinate activities and communicate learnings where it is beneficial to do so to better achieve Water for Life outcomes

Sector Planning for WCEP

- AWC started WCEP work in 2006 by developing definitions & agreeing on purpose of WCEP work
- A second WCEP Team was asked to:
 - Complete a guide for major water-using sectors to follow when developing their CEP Plans
 - Identify the sectors that should participate
 - Outline and evaluate tools to address participation
 - Identify BMPs and benchmarks for water use



Sector Planning for WCEP

- Seven biggest water-using sectors have voluntarily committed to develop CEP Plans by December 2010 through their various sector associations.
- Current team is:
 - Providing a forum for sectors to share ideas, experiences, opportunities and challenges in developing and implementing CEP Plans.
 - Evaluating and determining the need for enhancements to the CEP Framework
 - Regularly reporting progress

Sector Planning for WCEP

- Current Situation:
 - Updated “What We’ve Learned” report on the Council’s website
 - Irrigation and Urban Municipal CEP Plans are complete
 - Oil Sands and Oil and Gas coming forward to the Board in March 2011
 - Other 4 sectors are working on their plans

Why Sector Planning for WCEP?

- Support the *WFL* strategy objective of improving overall efficiency and productivity of water use in Alberta by 30% from 2005 levels by 2015
- Recognition of shared responsibility for the wise use of a precious resource
- Help address current and future environmental, social, and economic challenges
- Provide a framework for taking action on CEP initiatives



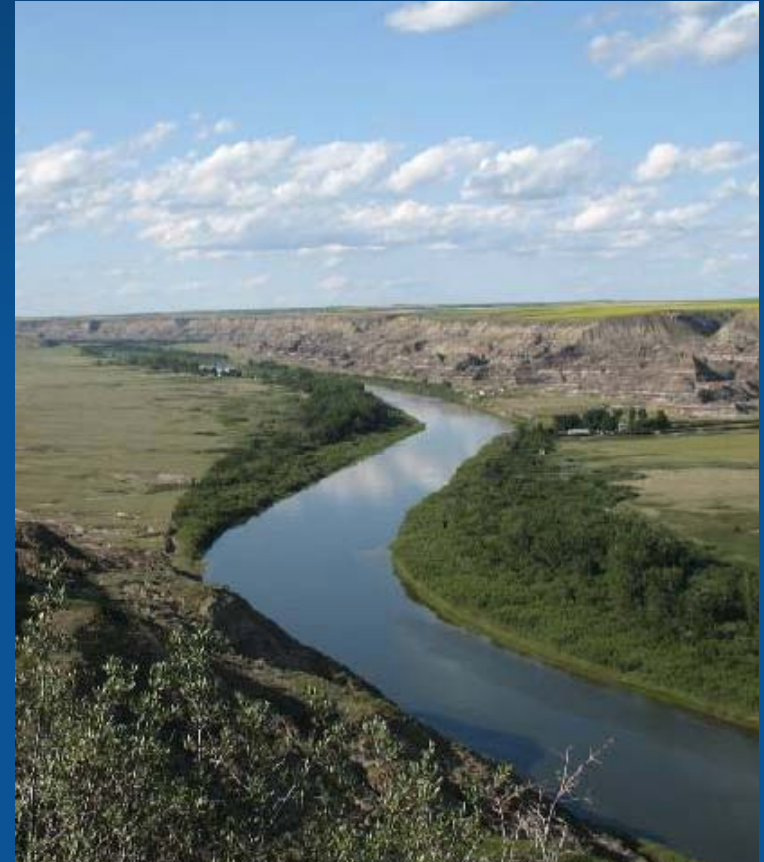
Non-Point Source Pollution

- Provide recommendations on how to better manage the total non-point source contaminant loading in our watersheds to achieve *Water for Life* goals.



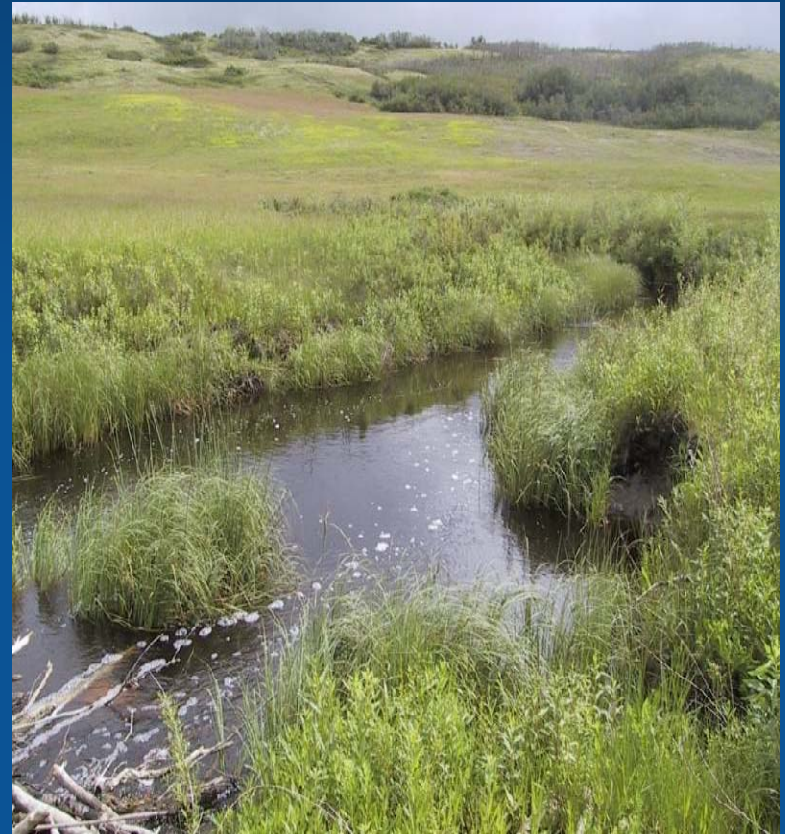
Why NPS Pollution?

- The health of aquatic ecosystems is degraded by point and non-point sources of pollution.
- In order to effectively manage the health of our watersheds we need a good understanding of the contributions of both point and non-point pollution and the policies and tools that minimize their impacts.



Riparian Lands Management

- The purpose of this team is to provide recommendations for effective conservation and management of riparian lands in support of *Water For Life* goals.



Why Riparian Land Management?

- Riparian lands are facing pressures that impact health and function
- A coordinated provincial approach is essential to conserving and managing our riparian lands at the various geographic scale and for the different water body types.



Agriculture Sector Participation with AWC

Non-Point Source Pollution PT

- AARD and Environment Canada
- Intensive Livestock Working Group
- Crop Sector Working Group
- Irrigation Sector

Riparian Lands Management

- AARD/AENV/AAFC
- Crop Sector Working Group
- Irrigation Sector
- Alberta Beef Producers

Sector Planning for WCEP

- AARD/AENV
- Irrigation Sector

Moving from Words to Actions

- AARD/AENV

Canada Water Week March 14-22, 2011

World Water Day March 22, 2011

**Events and Links are listed on the AWC website:
www.awchome.ca**



Thank you!

Questions?

