



water for life

alberta's strategy for sustainability

Partnerships in *Water for Life*

Agri-Environmental Partnership Workshop

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Hilton Garden Inn, Leduc

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Alberta Environment & Water

Water: a Government Priority

- New Premier and new Minister
- New department name
- New Minister's mandate

Water for Life

Goals: “*Albertans are assured....*”

- Their drinking water is safe
- Aquatic ecosystems are maintained & protected
- Water is managed effectively to support sustainable economic development

Water for Life

Key Directions:

- Access to knowledge
- All sectors adopt a water conservation ethic
- ***Water for Life* partners are empowered, informed and fully engaged in watershed stewardship**

Water for Life Partnerships

Partnership approach strives to...

- Use a shared governance model
- Seek consensus in decision-making
- Focus on shared interests – not positions
- Be watershed-focused and adaptive
- Make recommendations to both land & water managers
- Use the authority and capacity of its members

Water for Life Partnerships

Alberta Water Council

- Provincial policy

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

- Regional watershed planning

Watershed Stewardship Groups

- Local watershed activities

Alberta Water Council

Mission

A multi-stakeholder partnership that provides leadership, expertise and sector knowledge to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations, and governments to achieve the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy.

Alberta Water Council

Multi-Stakeholder

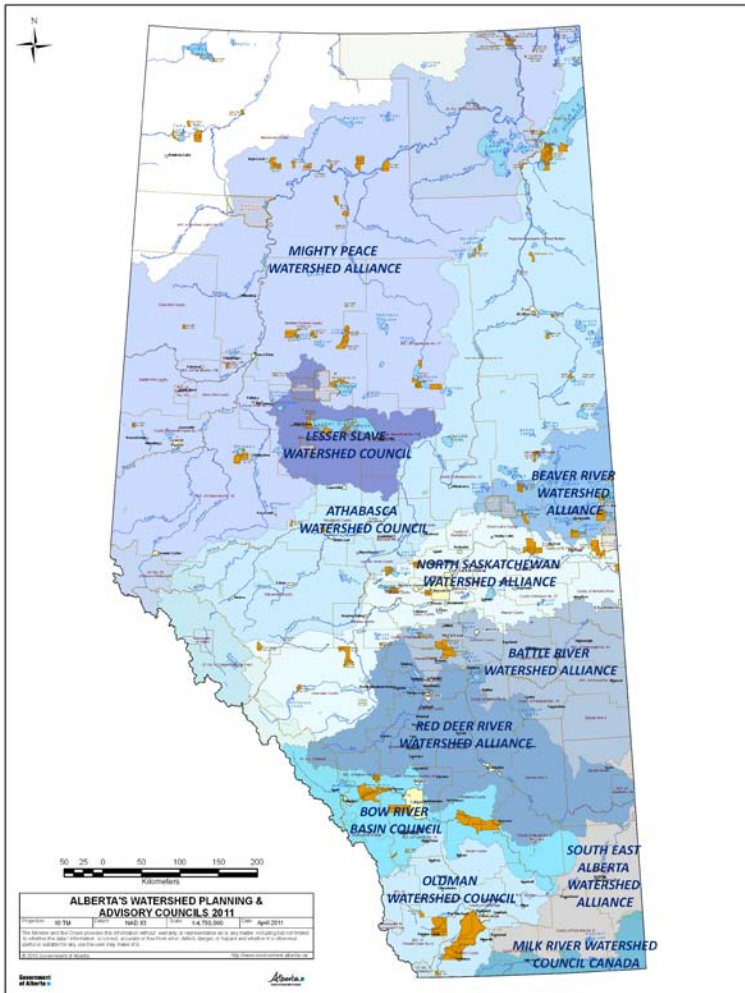
25 sectors;

- Irrigation, cropping, livestock
- 5 departments plus Alberta Innovates
- Large urban, small urban, rural and Metis Settlements
- WPACs, environmental groups, groups associated with fisheries, wetlands, and lakes
- Chemical & petrochemical, oil & gas, mining, forestry, power generation

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs)

To engage governments, stakeholders, other partnerships and the public in watershed assessment and watershed management planning, considering existing land and resource management planning processes and decision-making authorities.

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

Lesser Slave Watershed Council

Athabasca Watershed Council

Beaver River Watershed Alliance

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Battle River Watershed Alliance

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance

Bow River Basin Council

Oldman Watershed Council

South East Alberta Watershed Alliance

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

- Designated by Alberta Environment & Water
- Independent, non-profit organizations
- Multi-sector and consensus-based
- Assess the condition of their watershed, and
- Prepare plans to address watershed issues.
- Also conduct education and stewardship activities throughout their watershed.

WPAC activities:

- State of the Watershed assessment & reporting
- Watershed management planning

In addition – WPACs will work towards...

- Developing best management practices
- Fostering stewardship activities
- Sharing knowledge with users of the water resource

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

- Typically include representatives of provincial, municipal and federal governments, important industrial sectors, conservation groups, and aboriginal communities.
- They engage watershed residents in their work and seek consensus on solutions to watershed issues.

Watershed Stewardship Groups

- Over 140 grass-roots organizations
- Not officially designated by Alberta Environment & Water.
- Not necessarily multi-stakeholder, consensus-based organizations.
- Funded through the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program of the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada

Watershed Stewardship Groups

- Work in support of watershed stewardship and the goals of Water for Life
- Can be focused on improving the conditions of a local lake or river, conducting environmental monitoring projects, shoreline clean-up, education and community events.
- Can produce lake or watershed assessments and plans, like a WPAC.

Conclusion

- *Water for Life* partnerships continue to be a success.
- The Alberta Government remains very committed to this approach to watershed management

Questions?

Contact:

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Strategic Relationships,

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<http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca/>