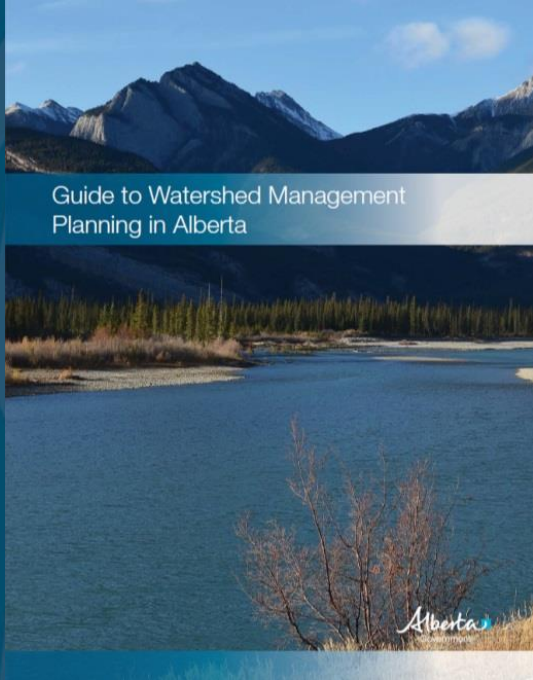


WPAC Program Changes for 2017/2018

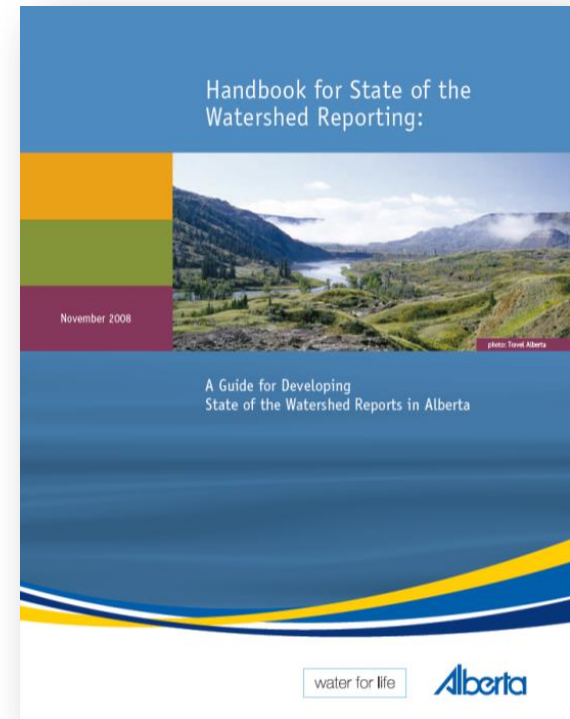
Andrew Schoepf, Director South Service Area
Community Engagement Branch

WPAC Executive Directors Meeting, Jan17, 2017

WPAC Program Areas under Water for Life



- 1) Watershed evaluation and reporting
- 2) Watershed management planning
- 3) Education and outreach
- 4) Environmental stewardship



WPAC Program Review

- Improved efficiency and alignment of work
 - Formalized EP communication and WPAC reporting
- Additional clarity required on the specific role of WPACs within the water management system and regional planning.
 - Designation, governance and public agency oversight
- Possibility for added scope of responsibility eg. community based monitoring.
 - revenue/funding model required for assured service delivery

WPAC Program Review

- Changes will be gradual and phased.
- WPACs will be actively engaged throughout the process.
- EP will continue to support existing work and projects to completion.
- Scope of any watershed planning will need to be focused and aligned with regional planning needs.
- Pause SOW reporting, but continue to support specific data synthesis or assessment needs in support of planning.
- Expand opportunities for education and community engagement

WPAC Program Outcomes

1. Albertans are provided opportunities to actively participate and invest in the shared stewardship of watershed resources.
2. Stakeholders, governments and communities are engaged in deliberative dialogue and build collaborative partnerships within each of Alberta's main river basins.

WPAC Program Outcomes

3. Albertans are informed of the current conditions, resource management pressures, and indicators of health and sustainability for priority watershed resources.
4. Partner investment in the work results in efficiencies in the delivery of service, and the effectiveness of actions in achieving watershed outcomes.

WPAC Program Outcomes

5. Watershed resource managers are empowered with the information, and have access to alternative options to make informed land and water management decisions that support the achievement of shared goals for the watershed.
6. A commitment to continuous improvement, adaptation, and learning ensures the work meets professional standards, processes are clearly documented, and the opportunities for engagement are understood.

Multi-year Grant Funding



- Minister Phillips has **approved \$3.2 million per year** for the WPAC Program over the next three years (ending March 31, 2020).
- Multi-year grant funding is provided “*to support the engagement of Albertans in the shared stewardship of watershed resources and assure the achievement of Water for Life Outcomes through collaborative partnerships, adaptive planning and knowledge transfer*”.
- This commitment presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate the success that can (and will) be achieved with \$9.6 million.

Implementation Considerations

- Overall WPAC Program funding is sustained at 2016/2017 levels.
- Grant funding will be based on evaluation of proposed work and administered as annual grant agreements.
- Grant funding will vary among WPACs, and may vary from year to year for each WPAC.
- Financial accountability, and demonstrated success are prerequisites for receiving any new money.
- Collaborative projects and shared delivery among WPACs are strongly encouraged.

Grant Application Package

Forms and Templates will be similar to last year.

Funding will be approved through a single grant agreement.

Eligible Activities:

- Watershed planning
- Watershed evaluation and reporting
- Education and outreach
- Stewardship of the environment
- Or as otherwise described in a approved project proposal.

Non-Eligible Expenditures:

- Establishing or contributing to a reserve/contingency account for use on expenditures outside the term of the agreement
- Donations or endowments to other organizations
- Payment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- Capital assets exceeding \$5000/unit unless preapproved by ESRD
- Existing services or expenditures of individual program areas within the Ministry (ie ambient monitoring, projects eligible under the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program).

Grant Timeline Summary: 2017/2018 Cycle

- Grant package issued – end of January
- Application Deadline – first week March
- Meetings with WPACs to discuss refinements and improved project alignment – coordinate as needed
- Grant Selection Committee meetings – March
- Notice of Minister Approved Funding – preapproved to March 2020
- Execution of Agreement and first installment (75%) – early April
- Interim Grant Report – mid October
- Second installment (25%) – pending receipt and satisfactory review of 2016/2017 closure report and 2017/2018 interim report
- Grant closure report – June 30 of each year