

Building the Watershed Management Plan

This is the second in a series of Infosheets on the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance's watershed management planning process. Both Infosheets are available on the Alliance's website.

Background Reports

A series of four Background Technical Reports (see table below) is being developed for the Watershed Alliance by independent consultants. The reports create a foundation of information on which to build the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The reports benefit from the advice of a Technical Advisory Committee and Technical Teams with expertise in relevant areas. Technical experts come from government, industry, conservation, consulting and academia.

The reports have the following framework:

- Present available data
- Establish outcomes



- Develop indicators
- Set targets for indicators
- Make recommendations on actions including research needs and Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

Surface Water Quality

The first report — Draft Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives for the Red Deer River Basin with

The Background Technical Reports will create a foundation of information on which to build the Integrated Watershed Management Plan

Background Technical Report	Public and Stakeholder Consultation	Completed
1. Surface Water Quality	Winter 2012	Summer 2012
2. Land Use, Riparian Areas and Wetlands	Fall 2012	Spring 2013
3. Surface Water Quantity/Groundwater	Fall 2013	Fall 2013
4. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity	Winter 2014	Spring 2014
Draft IWMP	Fall/Winter 2014	Fall/Winter 2014

Emphasis on the Mainstem — was prepared by limnologist Dr Anne-Marie Anderson. The report was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and then at three stakeholder workshops. Additional feedback was collected through an online response form.

During the consultation process, a number of important comments were made related to surface water quality in the Red Deer River system. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Project Management Unit reviewed those comments and made recommendations on which ones should be included in the report and which ones should not. The comments and rationale for including or not including them are documented on the Alliance's website.

Wetlands, Riparian Areas and Land Use

The second report — Background Technical Report on Riparian Areas, Wetlands and Land Use — was produced by O2 Planning + Design and LimnoLogic Solutions. The expertise of the Technical Advisory Committee was supplemented by additional experts, who reviewed the work at various stages. A similar stakeholder and public consultation process was undertaken, with clear documentation on how comments were incorporated into the work. The Surface Water Quantity / Groundwater report and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity report will follow a similar process to the first two Background Technical Reports.

One of the key roles of the Watershed Alliance is to facilitate collaborative relationships with all its stakeholders for the development and implementation of watershed plans.

Public and Stakeholder Consultation

While consultation coincides with the release of the Background Technical Reports, the purpose of engaging the community is more than just seeking input on the reports. It is to:

- Explain the watershed planning process
- Find out what stakeholders are doing in the watershed
- Build partnerships for implementation of the IWMP

Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

The IWMP is guided by Terms of Reference, which were approved by the Alliance's board in 2010. A Steering Committee of the board oversees the watershed planning process. A Project Management Unit is responsible for the operation and management of the project, including scope, time and cost.

The IWMP will draw on all the information collected in the Background Technical Reports and:

- Determine the final targets for each of the watershed health indicators
- Make recommendations on actions
- Present socio-economic analysis of those actions
- Develop an implementation framework

One of the key roles of the Watershed Alliance is to facilitate collaborative relationships with all its stakeholders for the development and implementation of watershed plans. The Alliance does not have legislative or regulatory authority around watersheds and it does not have the ability to implement watershed planning.

A draft of the complete IWMP will be submitted to the RDRWA Board of Directors by the Fall of 2014. Once the board has reviewed the IWMP, it will be made available to the public and stakeholders for final comments. The final IWMP will be signed off by the Board.

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