

A background image showing a dense spray of water droplets falling over a lush green garden. The water droplets are captured in motion, creating a sense of freshness and vitality. The green plants are in the foreground, and the water spray fills the upper two-thirds of the frame.

water for life

The Framework for Watershed Management Planning

Framework for Water Management Planning (2002)

- Was identified in the Water Act which came into force on January 1st, 1999
- Water Management Plans
 - (2) *The Director or other person developing a water management plan*
 - (e) *must follow the framework for water management planning established under this Division;*
 - (f) *must engage in public consultation that the Minister considers appropriate during the development of the water management plan.*
- Existing Framework for Water Management Planning was published in 2002
- Outlined water management process and content

Existing Framework incorporates concepts of;

- watershed approach,
- public involvement,
- integrated resource management, and
- A Strategy for the Protection of the Aquatic Environment

Very progressive and still pertinent;

- detailed and prescriptive
- Dealt with watersheds as the base planning unit
- Identified land use as it affects water quantity and quality as within the domain of water resource management planning

The current Framework;

- Was written before *Water For Life* and does not reflect all its key principles and language (e.g., shared responsibility)
- Does not fully address groundwater management planning, an integral part of the hydrologic cycle
- Needed to address Source water protection
- We have a new policy context - LUF and CEMS
- We asked for and received from The Alberta Water Council recommendations for changes to the current Framework

- The AWC struck a Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Project team
- This team held 4 workshops across Alberta where sector representatives could provided input
- 16 WPAC representatives took part

- the collective workshop input was incorporated into a final report from the project team and submitted by the AWC to the GOA
- *Recommendations for a Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta*
- Contained 12 key recommendations

The Framework For Watershed Management Planning

- In drafting the Framework we reviewed and incorporated the appropriate recommendations and their intent into the DRAFT Framework for Watershed Management Planning
- W4L is now clearly embedded
- Governance and process clarity has been added

The Framework For Watershed Management Planning

- There are a few remaining items requiring clarity and agreement before the Framework can be approved
 - Development of the Water Allocation Management System
 - » How could the new allocation system affect legislation? (and therefore the Framework)
 - Cumulative Effects Management System (the interaction of AENV with Regional Planning)
 - » How could the AENV non-jurisdictional portions of a draft Watershed Management Plan (e.g., those directed at the management of the land resource), be an opportunity within the Regional Planning process

The Framework For Watershed Management Planning

- Once these and any other outstanding issues are dealt with, the final draft will be presented to the Alberta Water Council and other W4L partners
- But in the meantime, it's felt the Framework is far enough along and that it provides the required guidance for the next step...
 - the **Alberta Guide to Watershed Management Planning** project

Thank you

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