



Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation Review

*Alberta Water Council Project
Summary Presentation*



Project Overview



Purpose

Provide multi-stakeholder advice and perspectives on the continuous improvement of the Alberta Wetland Policy implementation.



Objectives

- *Assess understanding of terminology*
- *Identify potential performance measures*
- *Describe challenges, opportunities, and unintended consequences*



Team and Operations

- *22 Team members*
- *November 2020 to March 2021*
- *29 hours over 15 virtual meetings*
 - *~435 hours of team time*
 - *~350 hours of between meeting time*
- *MIRO - Virtual collaboration platform*



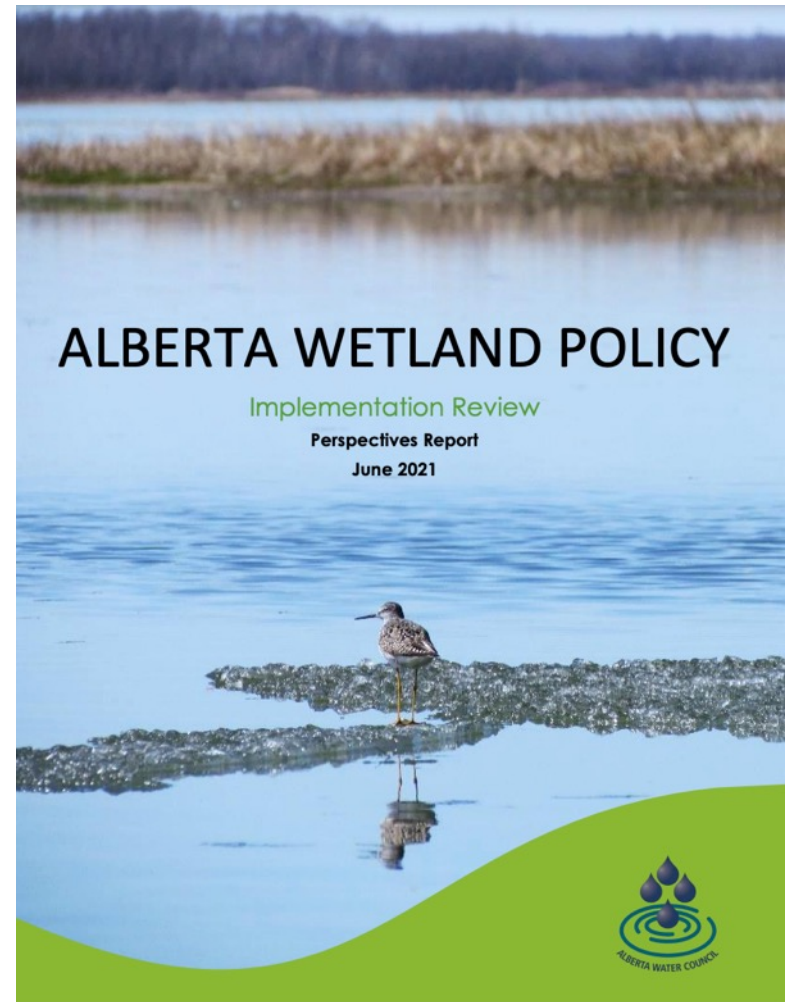
Sector Engagement Survey

- *Open for response from 9 December 2020 to 29 January 2021.*
- *In total, 58 responses were received from across fifteen groups or organizations*

Report

- *Multi-sector project team discussions*
- *Complemented by the project engagement survey*
- *Support continuous improvement of implementation*

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Project Results



Policy Terminology

- *All policy statements rated more unclear than clear*
- *Two statements were rated most unclear*
 - *Wetlands are managed by avoiding, minimizing, and if necessary, replacing lost wetland value (Outcome #3)*
 - *Enable flexible wetland management (Strategic Direction #1)*



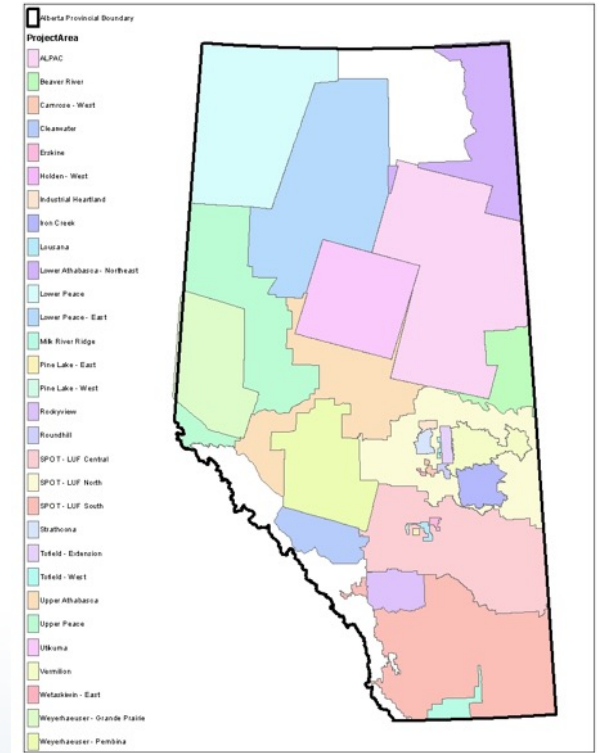
Measuring Performance

- *Five potential performance measures identified*
 - *Area, number, and class of wetlands with a protective designation*
 - *Area, number, and class of wetlands lost*
 - *Area, number, and class of wetlands replaced*
 - *Wetland replacement funds collected and spent*
 - *Timelines for regulatory review*



Additional Reporting

- *Four additional reporting metrics*
 - *Wetland Inventory*
 - *Review of application requirements*
 - *BMP review*
 - *Inventory of education/ stewardship programming*



Successes

- *An Approved Wetland Policy*
 - *Enabled wetland management tools and provincial management*
- *Operational Mitigation and Restoration Programs*
 - *Facilitated Policy implementation*
- *Improved Dialogue and Education*
 - *New dialogue on wetland conservation and restoration*



Challenges

- *Implementation Complexity*
 - *Process and guidance are complex, requiring expert support*
- *Regulatory Efficiency*
 - *Process could be more efficient and cost effective*
- *Assessment Tools*
 - *Tools are not transparent, are poorly understood, and don't extend beyond ecological aspects of wetland value*



Challenges

- *Transparency and Reporting*
 - *Minimal public reporting diminishes trust in the policy and tools*
- *Sufficient Educational and Stewardship Support*
 - *More sector-specific educational support required*



Opportunities

- *Clarify Policy Requirements*
 - *Clarify so implementation is less reliant on specialized expertise*
- *Indigenous Dialogue and Perspectives*
 - *Open meaningful dialogue with Alberta's Indigenous peoples to better involve Indigenous peoples in implementation*



Opportunities

- *Enhanced Educational Programming*
 - *Expand educational programming to improve accessibility*
- *Improved Public Reporting*
 - *Provide a better understanding of implementation progress*



Questions

