



Watershed Management Planning Process

Watershed Management: Defined

The watershed management planning process is about **determining how best to manage the land and water resources of our watershed for the protection, improvement and long-term sustainability of our watershed's environmental, economic and social values.**

Phase 1 of the watershed management planning process for the Battle River watershed is led by Alberta Environment. This phase is nearing completion, with the final outcome being the development of an approved water management plan for the Battle River watershed. This plan focuses on management recommendations related to surface water quantity and allocations in the Battle River watershed.

Phase 2 of the process is led by the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA). This phase will result in a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.

The plan will focus on various components of watershed management, referred to here as "watershed management units" (WMUs). WMUs may include surface water quality, groundwater quantity and quality, riparian areas, wetlands, biodiversity, land cover and land use, and more.

The overall scope of phase 2 remains to be determined. The watershed management units to be covered in the plan must be determined and prioritized according to the order in which they will be completed.

Desired outcomes, management recommendations, and implementation actions will then be outlined for each WMU.

Once implementation actions are undertaken, monitoring and evaluating will be completed to determine the effectiveness of implementation actions in achieving their desired outcomes. These results will then inform future watershed management planning efforts.



Who is responsible for implementation of the Phase 2 watershed management plan?

The role of the BRWA in watershed planning is to develop watershed management plans in collaboration with individuals, watershed stewardship groups, all four orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal, and First Nations), industry, environmental and community organizations, academia, and more.

These plans are voluntary (non-regulatory), meaning that implementation of the recommendations outlined in the plans is dependent on the voluntary choices and actions of watershed residents, stakeholders and decision-makers.

...> We are all stewards of the Battle River watershed.
A prairie-fed watershed.



Stages of the Watershed Management Planning Process:

The BRWA has outlined four stages of the planning process that correspond to the process outlined in Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy (see diagram below). These stages are as follows:

Stage

Our Promise to You

1 - Information Requirements

Data gaps will be prioritized and addressed. This is an intermediate step between the "trigger" and "plan" stages outlined in the diagram below.

We will let you know when research initiatives are underway and provide regular updates on our progress. We will listen to your feedback on research findings.

2 - Plan Preparation

The focus of this stage is to identify policy directions and options that set the direction for management actions related to each of the watershed management units.

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in watershed management alternatives. We will provide feedback on how your input influenced the watershed management plan.

3 - Plan Implementation

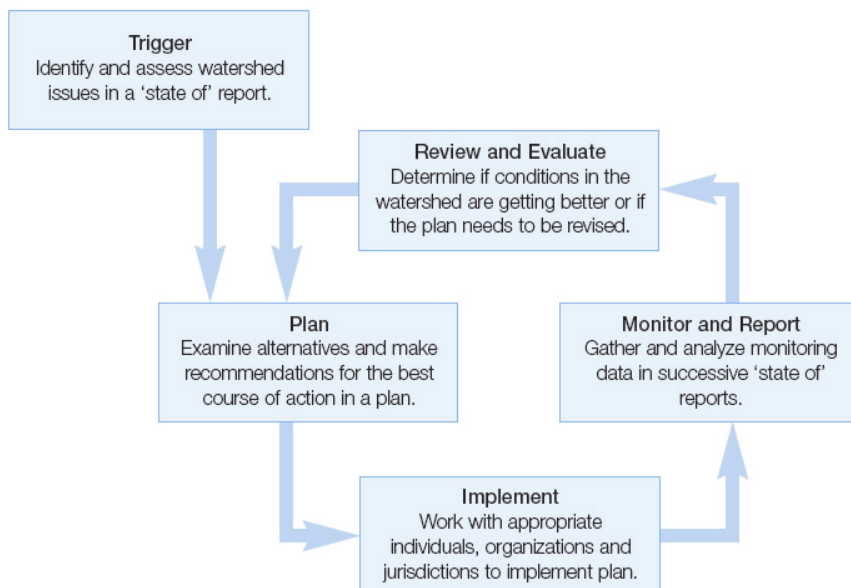
A suite of implementation options and tools will be developed that lead to on-the-ground implementation of recommendations set out in the watershed management plan.

We will look to you for advice and innovation in developing implementation options and actions and will work with you to implement these actions.

4 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating will be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of implementation actions in achieving their desired outcomes.

We will keep you informed as monitoring and evaluation efforts are carried out.



For more information about the BRWA visit our website:
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Stages of the watershed management planning process
Source: *Water for Life*, Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability (2003)



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