

Briefing Note for Municipalities and Indigenous Governments

Aligning Land Use & Development Policy With Watershed Management Recommendations

GUIDE TO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN LAND USE PLANNING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) has developed a *Guide to Watershed Management in Land Use Planning for Local Governments*. The Guide will be released mid-March. It is intended to offer examples of how municipalities and Indigenous governments can implement watershed management recommendations and environmental land management practices in land use planning documents and programs to achieve watershed resilience and sustainability. The Guide will be distributed to local governments in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds.

WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS - MARCH 24, 2025

BRWA is hosting a workshop for municipalities and Indigenous governments to introduce the new Guide and identify current actions and future opportunities for implementing watershed management in land use planning. BRWA will be sending workshop invitations to Ag Fieldmen, Environmental Coordinators, and staff from Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works departments from municipalities and Indigenous governments in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds.

Workshop Date: March 24, 2025, 10:30am - 3pm

Location: Mirror Lake Centre, 5415 - 49 Avenue, Camrose, AB (lunch provided)

A virtual option will be considered upon request.

BACKGROUND

BRWA is a non-profit organization and one of 11 Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils under Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability. BRWA has developed watershed management plans and supports implementation. With direction from the Land and Water Committee, we are in the final phase of a two year project focused on developing a land use planning tool to facilitate alignment with watershed management recommendations. To understand local planning priorities and watershed management challenges, BRWA engaged Municipal Planning Services (MPS) as the lead planner for the project. MPS has supported the research, led engagement with local governments, compiled feedback, and developed the new Guide. The project has resulted in the following:

- *Discussion Guide for Aligning Land Use Policy and Watershed Management Goals*
 - The Discussion Guide summarizes our research and policy review. It highlights areas where watershed management recommendations are captured in existing Municipal Development Plans. It also highlights opportunities for enhancing watershed management in local land use plans.
- *What We Heard Report*
 - This report is a summary of input from two engagement sessions BRWA hosted with municipal and Indigenous leaders and administrators in April 2024. There is also direct feedback included from municipalities.

BRWA greatly appreciates the input and direction we have received from municipalities, First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government within the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds. With your input, we have been able to complete the *Guide to Watershed Management in Land Use Planning for Local Governments* as our final project deliverable. We encourage local governments to use the Guide as a tool to achieve watershed resilience and sustainability for future generations.

This project was made possible with support from an Alberta Community Partnerships Grant, partnering with Camrose County (managing partner), Flagstaff County, and Lacombe County. Additional funding was provided by BRWA and the Battle River Community Foundation.

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