



Shared Governance & Watershed Planning Framework Project – Update

For **First Nations (Alberta) Technical
Services Advisory Group**

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Tim Toth, Alberta Environment



“Yes, of course, *water for life*; *water is life*;
water has life.”

First Nations participant, Nov. 2007



Shared Governance

- 💧 **Provincial government and external parties share responsibility to develop policy and deliver planning, programs or services**
- 💧 **Collaborative goal-setting & problem-solving process built on trust and communication**
- 💧 **Requires a clear accountability framework: roles, responsibilities and relationships**



Moving from Water to Watersheds

- The shift to watersheds moves beyond matters relating strictly to water, and involves input from land use activities
- It also introduces the complexity of a variety of authorities who are involved in a watershed



Watershed management plan

- Provides assessment and management information for a watershed
- Includes: water quality, sources of pollution, storm water, source water protection, wastewater management, subsurface water supplies, and land uses as they impact water
- Implications to downstream users
- Addresses integration of land use and watershed management outcomes at a watershed scale



Project Outcomes (1 of 2)

1. A shared governance framework: the roles, responsibilities, relationships and accountabilities for the water partnerships (AWC, WPACs and WSGs), and the process to establish & maintain shared governance.

Desire: all sectors work within the shared governance framework for watershed planning.



Project Outcomes (2 of 2)

2. A manual that guides the process & content for creating watershed management plans, who is involved, the relationship to other planning, approval and implementation of plans, and integration with shared governance.

Desire: all sectors participate in plan development, and follow through with the actions they agreed to, in a timely manner.



First Nations – GoA MOU

- ◆ **MOU between Alberta government and Treaty 6 First Nations**
 - ◆ Importance of shared responsibility for stewardship of the environment
 - ◆ First Nations input into environmental decision-making affecting their jurisdictions
 - ◆ Draw on expertise of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Elders and the communities



Scope of planning

- 💧 **Current matters – intersecting jurisdictions and existing approval processes: First Nations, municipalities, Métis Settlements, and industrial uses, such as IDs and FMAs**
- 💧 **Proposed *Framework for Watershed Management Planning* must be applied consistently across Alberta, but with sufficient flexibility to accommodate regional issues as defined by WPACs**



Shared Governance Project Team

- ◆ *Alberta Environmental Network*
- ◆ *Rural government*
- ◆ *Alberta Sustainable Resource Development*
- ◆ *Métis Settlements*
- ◆ *Alberta Chamber of Resources – Mining*
- ◆ *Alberta Urban Municipalities Assoc.*
- ◆ *Forestry sector*
- ◆ *Fisheries and Oceans Canada*
- ◆ *Watershed Stewardship Groups*
- ◆ *Irrigation sector*
- ◆ *Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils*
- ◆ *Alberta Municipal Affairs*



Current Schedule

<i>Action</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Initial contact to gain understanding	July– Aug. 2007
Prepare <i>Workshop Discussion Guide</i>	Sep.– Oct. 2007
Regional multi-stakeholder workshops	November 2007
**Draft two documents	Jan.– Mar. 2008
Workshop with Alberta Water Council	April 2008
Seek document approval from AWC	June 2008



Questions?