

## ***Water Literacy Project Team Terms of Reference***

Approved by the Alberta Water Council on: March 20, 2014. All sections amended on October 30, 2014. All sections amended on March 19, 2015.

### **CONTEXT:**

- The Water Literacy initiative originated from a statement of opportunity (SOO) brought forward to the Council by the GoA, ESRD. The Council identified this initiative as a potential Council project at the October 2013 board meeting and established a Working Group to further define the scope of a potential project.
- Water Literacy is an important component of the *Water for Life* strategy as it states that “Albertans will have access to the knowledge needed to achieve safe drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.”
- Water literacy is also the foundation for successful education and outreach efforts and for informed policy input to Government by the public. In the recently conducted GoA-led water conversation, Albertans identified the need to raise water literacy levels to allow them to contribute meaningfully to water management issues and to build capacity for water stewardship.
- ESRD’s Education and Outreach Section is developing a water literacy strategy to address key ESRD water related outcomes through education and awareness. ESRD is seeking advice on existing products, programs, assessments and research as well as gaps and opportunities for improving water literacy. The Council’s multi-stakeholder membership can support gathering this advice from many stakeholders.

**STRATEGIC INTENT (GOAL):** The purpose of this initiative is to enhance knowledge of, and provide recommendations for, improved water literacy in Alberta.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Improve understanding of existing organizations with water literacy programs, products, assessments or research in Alberta, and/or similar resources available to Albertans from other jurisdictions.
- Improve understanding of successful approaches or best practices to assessing and enhancing water literacy.
- Develop a tool, delivery approach, and assessed a sample of Albertans’ water literacy
- Recommendations on improving water literacy in Alberta

### **KEY TASKS:**

The Project Team will:

- Build a work plan and operate according to its timelines and tasks.
- Provide regular updates to the Council
- Conduct a survey to inventory existing water literacy organizations and the programs, products, assessments and research they provide.
- Compile a list of water literacy current approaches or best practices identified from the survey and elsewhere.
- Engage a consultant to assist with:
  - Designing a valid water literacy assessment tool
  - Developing an approach to assess water literacy levels among Albertans geographically and demographically
  - Assessing a sample of Albertans on water literacy

- Develop a report and recommendations to Council on opportunities and gaps for improving water literacy in Alberta.

**TIMELINES and DELIVERABLES:**

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| • Revised TOR   | October 2014 |
| • Revised TOR and update on survey findings and successful approaches | March 2015   |
| • Update on assessment work   | June 2015    |
| • Draft recommendations   | October 2015 |
| • Final report and recommendations                                    | March 2016   |

**MEMBERSHIP:**

<p><b>Industry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation</li> <li>• Oil and Gas</li> <li>• Power Generation</li> <li>• Mining</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-Governmental Organizations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental NGO</li> <li>• Lake Environment Conservation</li> <li>• Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils</li> <li>• TSAG</li> </ul>
<p><b>Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Urban</li> <li>• Small Urban</li> <li>• Rural</li> <li>• First Nations</li> <li>• Metis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment and Sustainable Resource Development</li> <li>• Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>• Alberta Energy</li> <li>• Alberta Health</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs</li> </ul>

The Project Team will operate in a manner that is consistent with the rules, policies, and procedures adopted by the Alberta Water Council, including the use of consensus to make decisions in a multi-stakeholder process.

**BUDGET:**

The Working Group estimates a total budget of \$85,000, broken down as follows:

**Core Funding Costs (covered by Alberta Water Council):**

Stakeholder support	\$ 42,000.00
Hosting	\$ 5,500.00
Communications Support	\$ 7,500

**Project Funding Costs (provided by stakeholders)**

Engaging a consultant to assist with designing a valid literacy assessment tool, developing an approach to assessing Albertans water literacy geographically and demographically, and sampling Albertans	\$30,000
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