

Evaluating Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Project Team Terms of Reference

Approved by the Alberta Water Council on October 29, 2015

CONTEXT

Water conservation and major water-using sectors voluntarily developing and implementing water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) plans are pillars of the *Water for Life* (WFL) strategy. Improving overall efficiency and productivity of water use by 30% from 2005 levels by 2015 was identified as an aspirational specific outcome in the original WFL strategy (2003), and was reaffirmed in the renewed WFL (2008) and associated action plan (2009).

Since 2004, the Alberta Water Council (AWC) has supported the CEP initiative with three project teams: the first identified guiding principles and definitions related to CEP planning; the second developed a framework to guide the sectors in creating their CEP plans; and the third supported the seven priority water-using sectors as they developed their plans. The third team also made a recommendation for a fourth team. This team would report on the implementation progress of sectors' CEP plans, evaluate the overall CEP planning process, and make recommendations to enhance sector CEP planning, implementation and future reporting if needed.

The recently released Water Conversation Action Plan commits the Government of Alberta to ensuring major water-using sectors make concrete, measurable and demonstrative improvements in water CEP. This will be accomplished by continuing to support the voluntary approach to CEP planning by working with the AWC to examine implementation progress and evaluate the extent to which the CEP process was successful.

STRATEGIC INTENT (GOAL)

The purpose of this project is two-fold:

- 1) Evaluate and report on the contributions of the water-using sectors' implemented CEP opportunities to achieving the three WFL goals¹, the specific WFL outcome of a 30% improvement in overall efficiency and productivity from 2005 levels by 2015, and the AWC-approved CEP desired outcomes²; and
- 2) Evaluate the process undertaken by the AWC to achieve CEP objectives and make recommendations for potential future enhancements to sector planning, implementation and reporting, if needed.

¹ The three goals of the WFL strategy are (1) safe, secure, drinking water supplies, (2) healthy aquatic ecosystems, and (3) reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

² The following CEP desired outcomes were identified in the first CEP report: 1) demand for water is reduced; 2) water use productivity is increased; 3) resources are conserved to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems; 4) water quality is maintained or enhanced.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Understand each sector's unique context for CEP planning and implementation
- 2) Understand both individual sectors' contributions, and collective contributions, to the three WFL goals, the WFL target of improving efficiency and productivity by 30%, and approved CEP desired outcomes
- 3) Determine to what extent the CEP process was successful in achieving the intended outcomes listed in the strategic intent.
- 4) Determine if recommendations are needed to improve CEP planning, implementation and future reporting

KEY TASKS

- 1) Develop a work plan that includes key tasks, deliverables and timelines
- 2) Report on:
 - i. each sector's experience, unique considerations and criteria for success in CEP planning and implementation (e.g., data availability, environmental factors, context)
 - ii. each sector's implementation successes and barriers
 - iii. individual sector contributions and collective contributions to the three WFL goals, the 30% improvement target, and CEP desired outcomes
- 3) Determine how to measure the overall success of implemented CEP opportunities
- 4) Evaluate the CEP process and consider the need for recommendations to improve planning, implementation, and future reporting
- 5) Provide regular updates to the AWC board

TIMELINES and DELIVERABLES

The Project Team will provide the following deliverables to the Alberta Water Council:

- Present findings on the collective contributions to the three WFL goals, 30% efficiency and productivity target, and CEP desired outcomes.....April 2016
- Draft recommendations.....November 2016
- Final report and recommendations.....March 2017

MEMBERSHIP

The AWC previously approved the following suggested membership:

- Seven priority sectors (sectors that developed CEP plans):
 - Chemical
 - Forestry
 - Irrigation
 - Oil and Gas
 - Petrochemical
 - Power Generation
 - Urban Municipalities
- Government of Alberta
- Environmental and other non-government organizations

BUDGET

No project-specific funding is expected to be required. AWC core funding is available to cover the following:

Stakeholder support	\$ 7,500
Hosting	\$ 5,000
Communications	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 20,000

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.