


Agenda

1. Policy Update
2. BILD Advocacy
3. CSWAT v. 1.0
4. 2018 CSWAT Pilot
5. Questions and Discussion

<p>Definition</p>	<h2>Wetland</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land that is saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes, such as poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and various kinds of biological activities that are adapted to a wet environment.• Approximately 20% of Alberta's surface area is covered by wetlands.• Between 60%-70% of wetlands in Alberta's developed areas have been disturbed.

Alberta Wetland Policy

Policy Update



Policy Timeline

- Wetland Management in the Settled Areas of Alberta: An Interim Policy (1993)
- Engagement with Albertans and Industry (1993-2013)
- Alberta Wetland Policy (2013)
- Implementation Development (2013-2015)
- Implementation of Policy – White Area (2015)
- Implementation of Policy – Green Area (2016)

Policy Directives – Developed

- Mitigation Directive (Updated 2017)
 - Mitigation Hierarchy
 - Replacement Proposals
 - Compensation Rates
- Offset Directive (2015)
 - Wetland Offset Program
 - Design, Validation and Verification Protocols
- Wetland Restoration Directive (2016)
 - Restoration Methods, Validation, Monitoring, and Validation
 - Records Management and Registry





Policy Directives - Developing

- Monitoring Directive
- Wetland Construction Directive
- Wetland Enhancement Directive
- Wetland Banking??

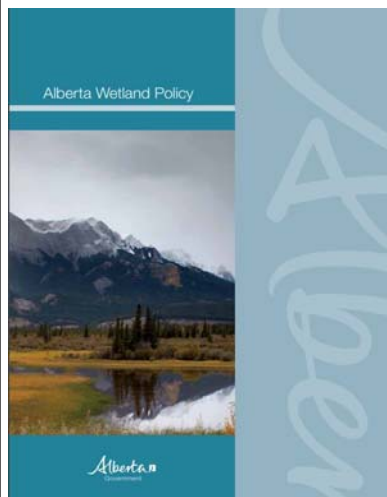
Emerging Issues

- Linkage between Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) and Water Act
- Public Lands Claims
- Timing and review of Water Act applications
- Regional variation in application reviews and approvals
- Regional challenges (Bow River Basin Closure Order)



BILD Alberta

Industry Advocacy



History

- Ongoing involvement in wetland policy development (1993- 2009)
- Wetland – Policy Intent (2009)
- Wetland Policy Working Group (2009-2013)
- Wetland Policy Implementation Working Group (2013-2016)

Current Work

- Continued advocacy with Alberta Environment and Parks
 - What's working, what's not
- NAWMP Working Groups
 - Municipal Action Group
 - Wetland Education Network
- Commissioned study on available Wetland Assessment Tools (NPS 2016)
- Constructed Stormwater Assessment Tool: Version 1.0 (NPS 2017)



Building on Industry Knowledge

CSWAT 1.0



2016 Study

- Question: “Can assessment tools, developed for natural wetlands, accurately assess constructed stormwater wetland function”?
- Review of 30 wetland assessment tools, including 2 rapid assessment tools
- While existing tools assess functions that constructed stormwater wetlands are designed to provide, they offer an incomplete assessment.
- Existing tools do not consider conditions specific to a constructed/urban context.
- Existing tools do not provide detail needed to design high functioning constructed wetlands.

CSWAT 1.0 - 2017

- To drive best design standards, a tool was developed to:
 - Be transparent;
 - Incorporate components of existing tools;
 - Encourage and recognize the inclusion of wetland features that mimic natural wetland systems;
 - Consider design intent and constraints;
 - Assess trajectory of success; and
 - Assess biodiversity across all wetland zones and upland



CSWAT 1.0

- Hydrological Function
 - NWL area, flow, catchment area, depth class
- Water Quality Function
 - Adjacent land use, upland buffer, contaminant load, CSW vegetation
- Habitat Function
 - Connectivity, size of wetland, shoreline complexity, CSW vegetation
- Human Use Function
 - Aesthetics, accessibility, recreation options, education options



2018 Pilot Program

- Trialing CSWAT 1.0 through Spring/Summer 2018
- Need pilot sites throughout Alberta, on a wide variety of projects
- Pilot needs prove out that tool is:
 - Rapid (~4 hours per wetland)
 - Easy to understand
 - Accurate assessment of current state
- Informative, and can influence future design

Building on Industry Knowledge

How Can Industry Continue to Engage?

Volunteer Opportunities

- 2018 Pilot Program
 - Municipalities
 - Developers
 - Consultants
 - ENGO's
 - Other interested parties
- BILD-AB Environment Committee is looking for volunteers!





Without change there is no innovation, **creativity**, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.

William Pollard

Questions?

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