

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

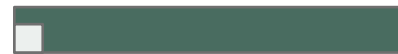
WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



- ☐ Address liabilities
Wetland Restoration
- ☐ Address environmental concerns
(i.e. dust, odor, conservation)
- ☐ Long-term environmental
sustainability and growth



- ☐ Interpretive ecology & parks
- ☐ Green Acreages
- ☐ ALUS
- ☐ Creative wetland projects
and initiatives



- ☐ Enhance wildlife diversity through
effective habitat management
- ☐ Innovative Environmental
research

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS?

Key Strategies

STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION
Policy and Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Advocate and promote environmental stewardship, develop and promote local environmental policies, support provincial legislation. <u>*Utilize partnerships with producers, internal departments, contractors, ALUS, Ducks Unlimited Canada, provincial ministries, agriculture corporations and other municipalities to the fullest extent to deliver environmental and wetland projects and enhance sustainable agriculture.</u> *Have County employees qualified as Environmental Inspectors
Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Address the environmental issues to minimize insurance costs
Program Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Identify local requirements for environmental programs, develop and conduct needed activities and programs.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lobby Alberta Government to enable Wetland Mitigation at a municipal level, in partnership with Municipalities. *Surface Water Management.

Recycling	*Support Ag Plastics Collection Program through the ASB Environmental Stream.
Maintain Green Areas	*Maintain and enhance habitat opportunities and minimize risk and liabilities on green areas such as McNabb Wildlife Sanctuary
Environmental Management	<p><u>*Manage growth that will enhance the residential, agricultural and industrial/commercial development opportunities while protecting the environment.</u></p> <p>*Develop and maintain an active environmental management and enhancement plan for County of Vermilion rural, suburban and urban properties.</p> <p>*Maintain an environmental stewardship program for agricultural producers and suburban residents.</p> <p>*Complete required environmental management work as needed. Interdepartmental Cooperation.</p>

WHEN & HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Actions/Initiatives

ACTION	EXPLANATION	ACHIEVEMENT DEADLINE
Inquiry Source	-Provide a source or reference point for environmentally related inquiries.	On-going
Environmental Issues	<p>-Complete environmental due diligence on County owned property as per our insurance and risk mitigation strategies.</p> <p>-Investigate and facilitate resolution of environmental issues such as dust, livestock facility siting, road dust, etc.</p> <p><u>- Keep up with current provincial and federal environmental programs and policies and innovative research.</u></p> <p><u>- Ensure County staff and ratepayers understand the rules and regulatory requirements regarding wetlands.</u></p>	Ongoing
Qualifications	-Have County employee(s) qualified as <u>Environmental Inspectors, including Wetlands “Authenticating Professional”¹, and ensure signoff on wetland validation reports.</u>	Ongoing
Wetlands	<p>- Ensure a comprehensive 3rd party review of the County of Vermilion River Wetland Mitigation Agent Pilot Project.</p> <p>-Lobby the Alberta Government to enhance viable opportunities for Wetland Mitigation at a municipal level, in partnership with Municipalities.</p> <p>-Develop partnerships with conservation organizations, industry and educational institutions.</p> <p><u>- Work with Planning and Development to create an inventory and map of environmentally significant wetlands and other resources for conservation and protection within the County.</u></p>	Ongoing

¹ “Authenticating Professional” is defined by Alberta Environment and Parks as a senior member(s) of the Wetland Mitigation Team who is regulated by the professional association to which they belong, and directed by the practice standards set out in the Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering Work in Alberta.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Monitor and maintain all restored wetlands annually to ensure appropriate vegetation establishment, soil stability and restoration of wetland function.</u> - <u>Ensure annual payments are made to landowners of restored wetlands.</u> - <u>Contract 3rd Party to prepare Wetland Validation Reports on restored wetlands.</u> 	
Recycling	-Work with ASB Environmental Stream Program to make chemical jug collection <u>bags sites</u> and plastic baler-twine collection bags available to farmers in the County and coordinate this program with the Regional Waste Commission. <u>Provide opportunities for recycling grain bag plastic.</u>	Ongoing
Maintain Green Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain and enhance habitat opportunities and minimize risk and liabilities on green areas such as McNabb Wildlife Sanctuary. -Enter into a management agreement with Alberta Environment & Parks to incorporate both quarter sections into one continuous natural area to be managed by the County. 	Ongoing
Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop and maintain an active environmental management and enhancement plan for County of Vermilion rural, suburban and urban properties. - <u>Develop a County Wetland or Environment Policy and align it with County Bylaws, Policies, Service levels and Provincial Legislation.</u> -Maintain an environmental stewardship program for agricultural producers and suburban residents. -Complete required environmental management work as needed. -Participate in North East Alberta Water Alliance, North Saskatchewan River Water Resource Committee and Vermilion River Watershed Alliance. -Utilize Regional Collaboration funding for environmental programs. -Provide a supporting role to Planning and Development for surface water management. 	Ongoing
Upgrade Green Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Showcase the County's commitment to environmental conservation through the establishment of wetland projects; establish artificial nesting structures, walking trails, informative signs, and an interpretive kiosk. -Provide a close accessible location for local schools and Lakeland College to utilize for use in educational labs and instruction. 	Ongoing
Financial	-Further develop multiple grant financial analysis for reporting	Ongoing
Program Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop and implement a coordinated education and outreach program addressing sustainable (environmentally and economically) farm management and rural living options. - Develop and implement a County of Vermilion River Recognition and Awards program and support an annual awards event. 	Ongoing

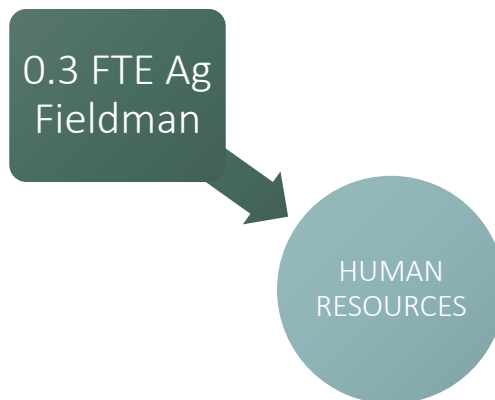
HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FROM LAST YEAR

* 3rd party consultant prepared "An Evaluation of Municipal-Provincial Wetland Management Partnerships in Alberta", reporting on Wetland Restoration Agency experiences in Alberta.

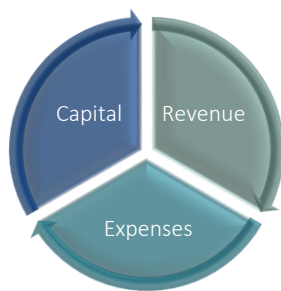
*Consultant and administration presented summary of the County's experience as a Wetland Restoration Agency at the March 2019 RMA Conference.

*ALUS Alberta has grown to include ten communities.

HUMAN RESOURCES



FINANCIAL RESOURCES



	DETAILS
REVENUE	-Mitigation funds received from developers -Additional grant funds as they become available
EXPENSES	-"Authenticating Professional" position -Wetland restoration projects (including land payments) -Monitoring -GIS technology and aerial photos -2019 Environment Operational Budget
CAPITAL	-Vehicle support for field staff

REGULATIONS/POLICIES

- NRCB
- EUB
- ~~AB Environment & Sustainable Resource Development Legislation~~
- Provincial Water Legislation
 - Water Act
 - Water (Ministerial) Regulation
 - Water (Offences and Penalties) Regulation
 - Public Lands Act
 - Municipal Government Act
 - Alberta Wetland Policy
 - Water Act Regulatory Requirements Guide
 - Alberta Wetland Identification and Delineation Directive
 - Alberta Wetland Assessment and Impact Report Directive

- [Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive](#)
- [Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings](#)
- [Land-Use Framework Regional Plan](#)
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- [Federal Legislation](#)
 - [Federal Fisheries Act](#)
 - [Federal Historical Resources Act](#)
 - [Species at Risk Act](#)
 - [Wildlife Act](#)
 - [Migratory Birds Convention Act](#)
 - [Land Stewardship Act](#)
- [CVR Wetland Mitigation Business Plan](#)
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MEASUREMENTS

CATEGORY	MEASUREMENT	GOAL
FINANCIAL	Budget	Operate within budget
ORGANIZATIONAL	Timeframes	Complete actions in allotted time frame
CUSTOMER CARE	Wetlands	Lobby to achieve Municipal ability to manage wetland replacement.
VISION	Diversity	New program/service development

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

- Originally Alberta environment required a county employee to sign off on reclamation inspections.
- **Wotherspoon Reports** require provincial environmental compliance for liability insurance coverage.
- [Wetland Restoration funds from municipality, developers and energy sector administered by the County of Vermilion River in 2012-2018.](#)
- [5 year Memorandum of Agreement signed with Province in 2013 for the County to become a Restoration Agency.](#)
- [In December 2018, the Province of Alberta changed the Wetland Restoration process, eliminating the need for Wetland Restoration Agents. Province did not renew MOA with the County when it expired.](#)