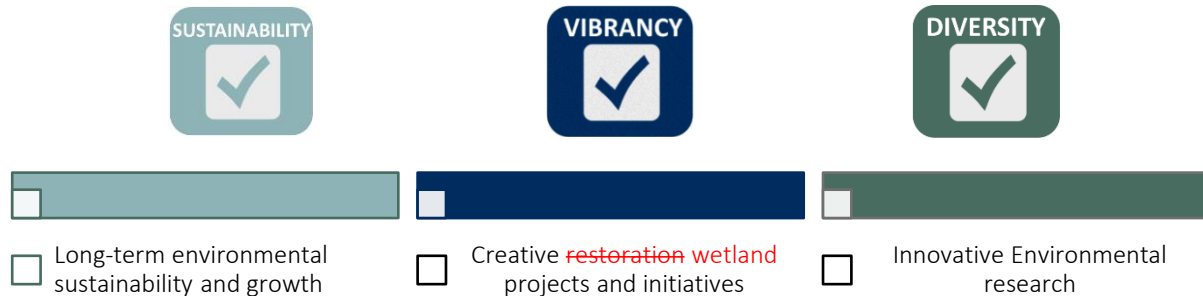


~~2019~~ SERVICE LEVELS NOTE: Due to reduction in program, all pertinent info from Wetlands Service Level as noted below has been incorporated into 2020 Environmental Management Service Level.

WETLANDS

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS?

Key Strategies

STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION
Program Management & Sustainable Service Delivery	Administer wetland mitigation projects using a community based approach in order to deliver the best possible services to ratepayers, while ensuring that the County remains fiscally and environmentally responsible.
Partnerships and Cooperation	Utilize partnerships with producers, internal departments, contractors, ALUS, <u>Ducks Unlimited Canada</u> Delta Waterfowl , provincial ministries, agriculture corporations and other municipalities etc. to the fullest extent to deliver wetland projects and enhance sustainable agriculture.
Growth & Development Management	To manage growth that will enhance the residential, agricultural and industrial/commercial development opportunities while protecting the environment

WHEN & HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Actions/Initiatives

ACTION	EXPLANATION	ACHIEVEMENT DEADLINE
Support Legislation	*Support and comply with all applicable Provincial and Federal legislation as it relates to wetland and water impact activities. *Develop a County Wetland Policy and align it with County Bylaws, Policies & Service Levels, and Provincial Legislation.	Ongoing
Mitigation	*Continue the mitigation partnership the County has with the Province to allow for successful and effective wetland mitigation implemented close to the area of impact. *Ensure a comprehensive 3rd party review of the County of Vermilion River Mitigation Agent Pilot Project.	Ongoing

	*Lobby the Alberta Government to enable viable opportunities for Wetland Mitigation at a municipal level, in partnership with Municipalities.	
Inventory	<p>*<u>Work with Planning and Development to create an inventory and map of environmentally significant wetlands for conservation and protection within the County of Vermilion River.</u></p> <p>*Create an inventory and map of drained naturally occurring wetlands in the County of Vermilion River that are candidates for restoration.</p> <p>*Use the inventory to identify opportunities and targets for wetland restoration.</p>	Ongoing
Site Selection and Restoration	<p>*Ensure that an "Authenticating Professional"¹ signs off on restoration plans and validation reports. County will ensure that applications have certificates of titles for all affected lands and appropriate landowner agreements.</p> <p>*</p> <p>* Conduct wetland restoration, construction and enhancement as per Alberta Environment approved Plans</p> <p>*Develop and implement a wetland education, conservation, stewardship and outreach plan for NE 35-60-3-W4M.</p>	Ongoing
Management of Restored Sites	<p>*Monitor and maintain all restored wetlands annually to ensure appropriate vegetation establishment, soil stability and restoration of wetland function.</p> <p><u>*Ensure annual payments are made to landowners of restored wetlands.</u></p>	Ongoing
Reporting	<p>*Provide an annual report to Alberta Environment, including evidence that the wetland is properly functioning, cost of restoration, and other items as required by the Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive.</p> <p><u>*Contract 3rd Party to prepare Wetland Validation Reports on restored wetlands.</u></p>	Ongoing
Environmental Research	<p>*Keep up with current Provincial environmental programs and policies and innovative research to improve the Wetlands Program.</p> <p><u>*Ensure County staff and ratepayers understand the rules and regulatory requirements regarding wetlands.</u></p>	Ongoing
Communication	<p>*Submit an annual report to the Ministry of Alberta Environment and Parks that covers inventory; assessments conducted; financial statements; future projects etc.</p> <p>*Present Wetland Pilot Project progress reports at relevant associated meetings.</p>	March 31 annually
		Ongoing

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FROM LAST YEAR

~~*One wetland site restored.~~

~~*Completed Wetland Restoration Reverse Auction for 2017-2018. No potential wetland restoration sites were identified.~~

~~*Hosted final of 3 planned Wetland Workshop Series events.~~

~~*Be a Wetland Explorer Day was so successful in 2017 that it was repeated in 2018 with 100 people attending.~~

*Consultant completed "An Evaluation of Municipal-Provincial Wetland Management Partnerships in Alberta".

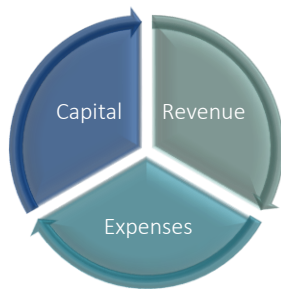
*Consultant presented summary of the County of Vermilion River's experience as a Wetland Restoration Agency at March 2019 RMA Conference.

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES



FINANCIAL RESOURCES



DETAILS	
REVENUE	-Mitigation funds received from developers
EXPENSES	-"Authenticating Professional" position -Wetland restoration projects (including land payments) -Monitoring -GIS technology and aerial photos -2019 Environment Operational Budget
CAPITAL	-Vehicle support

REGULATIONS/POLICIES

- *Water Act*
- *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*
- *Water (Offences and Penalties) Regulation*
- *Public Lands Act*
- *Federal Fisheries Act*
- *Federal Historical Resources Act*
- *Species at Risk Act*
- *Wildlife Act*
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- *Land Stewardship 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*
- *CVR Wetland Mitigation Business Plan*

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

*5 year Memorandum of Agreement signed with Province in 2013 for the County to become a Restoration Agency. Province of Alberta changed the Wetland Restoration process, eliminating the need for Wetland Restoration Agents in December 2018. Province did not renew MOA with the County when it expired.