



Environmental Conservation Master Plan

2018 Factsheet

Disclaimer: *this factsheet provides a brief overview of the Environmental Conservation Master Plan (ECMP) project. It in no way assumes, directs, or allocates the completion of any project, plan or initiative.*

What was the need for the Plan?

In 2013, Council directed Administration to update the Environmental Master Plan with the recommendations used to inform the new Municipal Development Plan. (MDP).

When was it developed?

The update to the ECMP & Policy project started in August 2013 and was completed in October 2014.

Who was consulted?

Administration undertook extensive public engagement that included on-line surveys, one-on-one technical meetings and a series of workshops and open houses. Five groups were targeted in updating the ECMP. These included technical stakeholders (i.e. government officials, academics), residents, Indigenous communities, County Council and staff.

Council was involved in preparing the draft environmental policies for the MDP. This happened over two workshops in 2014 where Council reviewed the draft policy findings for the MDP and provided recommendations on how to proceed.

Project highlights

- Phase 1: updated the map of environmentally significant areas (ESA's) in the County. ESA's were categorized into 1 of 5 environmental significance categories. These included international, national, provincial, regional, or local significance. The phase included updates to ESA "factsheets" and the development of beneficial management practices.
- Phase 2: involved the preparation of draft "environment" policies for the MDP. Phase findings were directly informed by the final ECMP document (phase 1). Council was directly involved at this project stage (see above).
- Phase 3: involved the preparation of a draft environmental policy, environmental reserve policy, and a draft wetland policy for the County. The phase resulted in Council Policy C-PD15 Dedication and Use of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, Environmental Reserve Easement and its associated procedures.

Phase 3 also resulted in the creation of the Riparian Setback Matrix Model (RSSM) which is used by the as an additional tool to identify potential development setbacks from riparian areas for simple subdivisions.

What plans or initiatives did the project inform?

- Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2017-14, and Land Use Bylaw 2017-18 (currently being updated)
- County Wetland and Historical loss study, Wabamun Sub-Watershed Land Use Plan, Future of Agriculture Study
- Policy C-CS01 Biophysical Assessments
- Policy C-PD14 Dedication and Use of MR, ER, ERE Policy and procedures
- Acheson and Highvale End Land Use area structure plans
- County Riparian Setback Matrix Model
- County GIS system



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What are the important findings and how is it used?

1. **ESA maps and factsheets:**—the ECMP resulted in an updated Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA's) map for the County and factsheets for each ESA. These were incorporated into MDP Bylaw 2017-14.
2. **Environmental data:**—ECMP data was uploaded to the County's GIS system and is used on a daily basis by County staff.
3. **Beneficial Management Practices:**—the ECMP resulted in the creation of beneficial management practices (BMP's) for different types of development. BMP's have informed policies in the new MDP, LUB regulations, and the development of new County policies.
4. **Draft policies:**—the project resulted in draft "environmental policies" that informed final preparation of MDP Bylaw 2017-14. The project also resulted in the creation of County policies C-PD15 Dedication and Use of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, and Environmental Reserve Easement, and C-CS01 Biophysical Assessment.

Recommended for approval

1. ECMP
2. ECMP Implementation Plan