

Environmental Conservation Master Plan

2018

Plan outcomes and next steps

Disclaimer:

- this update reports on key outcomes from the **Environmental Conservation Master Plan and Policy Updates** project. Information reflects projects / initiatives identified in the Master Plan.
- information is current to the date provided and reflects information available at the time of preparation.

Project outcomes	What has the plan informed?	Status and Next Steps
Phase I – ECMP resulted in a new “Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) map for the County and factsheets for individual ESA’s. The ESA map and factsheets designates ESA’s with an international, national, provincial, regional or local significance. Factsheets identify “beneficial management practices” that may be used to minimize impacts on the environment.	• MDP Bylaw 2017-14 maps: ESA maps were incorporated into MDP Fig. 5— Environmentally Significant Areas, and formed the base layer for MDP Fig. 14—High Priority Landscapes.	 • ECMP map data have been fully incorporated into MDP Bylaw 2017-14. Subdivisions and developments must abide to the MDP when located in an ESA.
	• GIS mapping: mapping created through ECMP Phase 1 is uploaded to the County’s GIS system and used daily by Development and Subdivision staff when analyzing environmental criteria needed to support development and subdivision applications.	 • ECMP map data has been fully integrated into the County’s GIS system. ESA data layer is used daily by Planning & Development staff when reviewing various planning, subdivision, and development applications.
	• Biophysical assessments: mapping created through ECMP Phase 1 is used by the County’s biologist when reviewing biophysical assessments submitted by developers and applicants.	 • Community Sustainability will continue using the ESA map when analyzing biophysical assessment submitted by developers.
	• Other plan and policy documents: ECMP Phase 1 informed work on other plans and policies including: • County Wetland Inventory & Historical Loss Assessment study • Wabamun Sub-Watershed Land Use Plan • Highvale End Land Use ASP • Future of Agriculture Study	 • ECMP findings have been fully integrated into the project recommendations coming out of the 4 plans / studies identified. Updates on the Wabamun Sub-Watershed Land Use Plan and Future of Agriculture Study are provided in a separate report.

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Phase II – ECMP resulted in draft policies for the “Environment” section of the MDP. Deliverables provided draft policies in areas related to biodiversity, groundwater and surface water protection, protection for hazard lands, and soil resources.	MDP Bylaw 2017-14 policies: ECMP Phase II directly influenced new policies for the environment found in MDP Section 10.0 – Natural Environment. MDP policies cover all areas in the ECMP (i.e. ecosystems biodiversity, surface and groundwater resources, hazard landforms and soil preservation .	 Complete ECMP Phase II work has been fully integrated in the policies found in MDP Section 10.0—Natural Environment and Section 4.0—Agriculture. All planning applications must abide by MDP policies as they pertain to the environment and agricultural development.
	County Policy C-CS01: findings from ECMP Phase I and II also was used to develop County Policy C-CS01 Biophysical Assessment.	 Complete All biophysical assessments submitted to the County need to adhere to the MDP and County Policy C-CS01 Biophysical Assessment.
Phase III—ECMP involved preparing three draft policies for the County: - draft environmental reserve policy - draft environmental policy - draft wetland policy ECMP Phase III also focused on developing the County’s Riparian Setback Matrix Model (RSMM).	- ECMP Phase III work influenced updates to: Council Policy C-PD15 Dedication and Use of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, and Environmental Reserve Easement Procedure C-PD15P2 Dedication of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, and Environmental Reserve Easement Procedure C-PD15P3 Use of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, and Environmental Reserve Easement The Riparian Setback Matrix Model (RSMM) and Developer’s Guide is used regularly to identify setbacks from riparian areas.	 Slow Progress Council Policy C-PD15 is scheduled for regular policy review in 2019. Procedure C-PD15P2 is scheduled for regular review in 2019. Procedure C-PD15P3 is scheduled for regular review in 2019. Administration completed the Wetland Inventory and Historical Loss Assessment and is contemplating a County-wide Wetland Policy. The policy would be completed by early 2019. Community Sustainability will review the applicability of the RSMM in 2018.  Slow Progress

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Outcome summary	Upcoming milestones
- The ECMP will continue to be used when: - reviewing planning and development applications - reviewing biophysical assessments - issuing subdivision and permit approvals - ECMP findings will continue to be used when compiling background information for new County master plans and statutory plans (i.e. area structure plans) and County policies. - ECMP findings will continue to be available for Administration and resident use through the County's GIS system and on-line web document availability.	By Q3, 2018: Community Sustainability will review the Riparian Setback Matrix Model given for feasibility. <i>NOTE: Administration is working with the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance to review the applicability of an RSMM in the Region.</i> By Q3, 2018: Planning & Development Services will review Council Policy C-PD15 Dedication and Use of Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, and Environmental Reserve Easement to ensure alignment with recent changes to the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>. Q1, 2019: Potential completion of a County Wetland Policy by Community Sustainability. Beyond 2020: Development Services Division will undertake a review of the ECMP project to ensure findings are updated.