

Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir

Preliminary Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Land Use Plan

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1. Introduction

Performance or results-based management is a methodological and structured approach to plan and program management based on best practices and standards proven to improve results. It supports continuous improvement and accountability by integrating information on results and lessons learned into decision-making and management actions to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Four key areas of performance management are output-outcome identification and development, monitoring (performance measurement), results reporting and evaluation.

The purpose of this preliminary monitoring and evaluation strategy is to:

- 1) provide an overview of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting development and process,
- 2) provide an outline for monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the Springbank Land Use Plan, and
- 3) provide an outline for monitoring, evaluation and reporting for specific conditions attached to the Springbank Reservoir project.

This strategy directly supports approval conditions and will be updated as new information becomes available.

2. Overview of AEP Planning and Performance Management Process

Land and environmental planning is an adaptive process to envision and articulate a desired future, make deliberate decisions to get there, and re-evaluate our approach in response to changing conditions. It results in a plan that provides clear direction for the orderly management of land and natural resources, which provides greater certainty that we will achieve the social and economic benefits while also meeting environmental outcomes. Planning follows a clear plan-do-check-adapt cycle (Figure 1). Performance management is embedded directly in the planning cycle.



Figure 1: Planning Cycle

Performance management is used to track progress on the conditions and to track continued progress towards meeting the outcomes of the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan, identify emerging issues, and support decision-making. This system provides valuable information for land managers, Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and the public to understand the success of the plan.

The four key areas this preliminary strategy covers are:

1. Outcome-output identification – identifying desired conditions and plan outputs and outcomes, along with underlying assumptions or operating environment conditions that must be in place for program inputs and activities to lead to desired outputs and outcome.
2. Monitoring/Performance measurement – a method for assessing progress towards the achievement of outputs and outcomes. Requires the development of measures based on the outcomes of the plan and conditions, as well as the long-term collection, synthesis and review of monitoring data to determine if the conditions continue to be met and if the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan is achieving the outcomes stated in the plan.
3. Reporting – The mechanism to communicate out the results of a plan or project at set time points. There are three types of reporting – operational, monitoring, and review/evaluation. These are:
 - Progress reporting – provides reporting on timeliness and completion of priority actions and deliverables, and are instrumental to identifying issues in real time.

- Monitoring reporting – provides reporting on the data collected for the performance measures.
 - Review/evaluation reporting – a product of a plan or project review (usually at the mid-point and end-point of the cycle) that answers key questions regarding what works and what does not.
4. Evaluation – the process that reviews and tests the results of the conditions and the plan. It can focus on the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of a project or plan. Evaluations provide findings, conclusions and recommendations for continuous improvement, or can provide a summary judgement on program performance. Lessons learned derived from evaluation findings and recommendations can inform decision-making and management actions as well as guide the next planning cycle.

Each aspect of the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan performance management system works together to inform decision-makers and stakeholders of the progress towards implementation and demonstrate transparency, accountability and evidence of progress towards achieving plan outcomes. The success of the plan relies on a collaborative and integrated approach across sectors to develop and implement the plan.

3. Conditions and Plan Outcomes

This preliminary monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy is for two aspects of the project. These are:

Conditions

- 8.14.2 the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan identified in condition 8.8 in supporting and prioritizing First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area;
- 8.14.3 the effectiveness of the staging area identified in condition 8.9 and the adequacy of its size in supporting First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area within five years of its implementation;
- 8.14.4 the effectiveness of the First Nation Land Use Advisory Committee in addressing views and information received pursuant to condition 8.11.4; and

Land Use Plan Outcomes

The Springbank Land Use Plan has, at the time of this preliminary strategy, not yet developed plan outcomes as these are being developed in conjunction with the First Nation Land Use Advisory Committee and the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee. However, we can presuppose some broad overarching themes as directed by IAAC conditions, include:

- Public safety
- First Nations Treaty Rights and traditional use
 - First Nations staging area
- Grazing and vegetation management
- Sustainable non-motorized recreation

As the Springbank Land Use Plan is developed, this preliminary strategy will be updated.

4. Monitoring Strategy

The overall objective of monitoring the plan is to a) gauge continued progress towards meeting the outcomes and objectives, and b) collect data that assists in long-term evaluation, planning and decision-making should the plan need to be adjusted to ensure outcomes are achieved.

The development of each monitoring measure starts with the development of each objective in the plan. This provides a check on the objective to ensure it is measurable and a check on the metric to ensure it is both meaningful and useful. Key questions when developing the performance metrics are:

- Audience - Who will use the performance metric results? How will they use the results? What do they need to know?
- Data - What data is available? What data could be collected within the resources available? What effort and/or tools are needed to analyse and report on the data? What is the quality of the data (is it accessible, complete, comparable and reliable)? What does the data actually tell us?

A preliminary summary of the tools and how they provide information for the conditions as well as the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan performance measures is presented below.

Please note that the measures are preliminary to support conversations with Indigenous groups, landowners and stakeholders.

Table 1: Potential Monitoring Tools and Their Use

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|--|
| <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.14.2 the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan identified in condition 8.8 in supporting and prioritizing First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area;• 8.14.3 the effectiveness of the staging area identified in condition 8.9 and the adequacy of its size in supporting First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area within five years of its implementation; and• 8.14.4 the effectiveness of the First Nation Land Use Advisory Committee in addressing views and information received pursuant to condition 8.11.4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveys<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ End-of-meeting Surveys<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Helps with understanding if the Committee has been effective in addressing views and information according to the perspective of the attendees.○ Experience Surveys or One-on-one Interviews<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Helps with understanding if the Land Use Plan has been effective in supporting and prioritizing First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area.▪ Helps with understanding if the staging area is effective and adequate in size to support the First Nation’ practice of traditional activities within the project development area within five years of its implementation. |
| <p>Public Safety on Site</p> |

- **Compliance Statistics (PRCC)**

- PRCC statistics to track number of Public Lands Act and other related legislation incidents compared to number of tickets and number of warnings.
 - Helps to understand how the public is responding to outreach, warnings and tickets given by officers.

First Nations Treaty Rights and Traditional Use

- **Experience Surveys and One-on-one Interviews**

- Helps with understanding if the Land Use Plan has been effective in supporting and prioritizing First Nations practice of traditional activities within the project development area.
- Helps with understanding if the staging area is effective and adequate in size to support First Nations practice of traditional activities within the project development area within five years of its implementation.

- **TBD in partnership with the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee**

Grazing

- **Vegetation Surveys**

- Helps to understand the change over time in vegetation type and cover.

- **Video Inventory (Drone)**

- Captured prior to the opening of the planning area after construction to set a baseline in vegetation and condition of landscape and then again at regular intervals.
 - Helps to understand impact of grazing on the landscape.

Sustainable Non-Motorized Recreation

- **Video Inventory (Drone)**

- Captured prior to the opening of the planning area after construction to set a baseline in vegetation and condition of landscape and then again at regular intervals.
 - Helps to understand impact of sustainable non-motorized recreation across the landscape.

- **Compliance Statistics (PRCC)**

- PRCC statistics to track number of incidents under the Public Lands Act compared to number of tickets and number of warnings.
 - Helps to understand how the public is responding to outreach, warnings and tickets given by officers.

- **Outreach Statistics (310 Lands Phone Line)**

- 310-Lands phone number statistics to capture all phone calls received on education/outreach and on compliance on/in the South Saskatchewan Region and filtered for key words.
 - Helps to understand any issues or concerns raised by the public through the phone line.
 - Helps to understand the types of education/outreach questions raised by the public through the phone line.

The monitoring strategy document and the measures used will remain flexible to ensure that new findings or techniques to monitor for changes to the landscape are able to be built in as need arises. AEP

will continue to identify opportunities to complete monitoring activities in collaboration with the scientific community, partners, stakeholders and Indigenous peoples.

5. Evaluation Strategy

An evaluation doesn't just describe the plan or project outcomes and the results from monitoring, it assesses it. It uses data collected during monitoring as well as key questions designed to gather other qualitative and quantitative data. The information from the evaluation is used to create a report that provides decision-makers the information they require to continue, revise or end a plan or project in whole or in part.

Evaluation follows a process that is consistent across the Government of Alberta. Using an evaluation matrix, the evaluation themes, questions to be answered, data collection sources and methodology is developed. Once the evaluation is scoped out and information collected, a triangulation matrix helps synthesize the data and validates the findings by ensuring conclusions have been supported by multiple sources. This information is then synthesized and organized into a report that links the evaluation findings and conclusions with recommendations for improvement or change.

Evaluation of the Conditions

The conditions are written so as to be the evaluation theme. The evaluation matrix should be developed to determine:

- the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan in supporting and prioritizing First Nations practice of traditional activities within the project development area;
- the effectiveness of the staging area and the adequacy of its size in supporting First Nations practice of traditional activities within the project development area within five years of its implementation;
- the effectiveness of the First Nation Land Use Advisory Committee in addressing views and information received

Evaluation of the Land Use Plan

Following typical land use planning process, the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan will likely be reviewed 5 years after completion, with a comprehensive evaluation of the plan in the tenth year. This may result in the plan being amended if required to adapt to new direction or conditions. An evaluation of the plan may also be initiated by the ongoing review of the monitoring results should they show undesirable trends or that the plan is not meeting expected objectives or outcomes.

An evaluation of a plan is technically scoped out and conducted in the year that a review or evaluation is due. However, there are some key areas that the future evaluation questions could be developed on. These are:

- The status of legislated requirements of the plan and/or direction from other plans and frameworks (e.g. the regional plan),

- The status of outcomes, objectives, strategies and actions within the plan,
- The perception of decision-makers, joint committee members, and First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee members on the impacts (the success or failure) of the plan and/or plan components,
- The state and impact of compliance, safety, and education and outreach to the general public.

6. Schedule of Reporting

Three types of reporting – operational, monitoring, and review/evaluation – will be conducted for the Springbank Reservoir Land Use Plan and for the specified conditions.

| Type of Report | Area | Deliverable | Frequency |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Operational | Conditions | Summary Report | Annual until conditions are met and completed |
| | Land Use Plan | Implementation Tracker | Annual – first report due 1 year after start of dam operation/final approval of land use plan |
| Monitoring | Land Use Plan | Summary Report | Annual - first report due 1 year after start of dam operation/final approval of land use plan |
| Evaluation | Land Use Plan | 5 Year Review | In 5 th year |
| | Land Use Plan | 10 th Year Evaluation | In 10 th year |