

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) Terms of Reference for MRWCC

The project initiates a riparian restoration and stewardship program to provide incentives to residents and agricultural producers located along the North Fork Milk River (Reach1), and the Milk River Gravel-bed reach (Reach3). Producers in other areas of the watershed will be considered based on project merit, and can include sites on tributaries of the Milk River such as Red Creek and Breed Creek.

The MRWCC, WRRP Project Review Committee have provided the following files for project selection criteria and funding eligibility:

- Program Funding Guidelines
- Funding application form
- Project agreement form

Program objectives:

- To target stewardship implementation in areas of the watershed identified with challenges in SOW and IWMP projects.
- To improve landscape management within the Milk River watershed
- To improve water quality, flood and drought resilience within the Milk River watershed

Project Types

- Riparian Restoration
- Riparian corridor fencing and exclusion fencing
- Wintering Site Management
- Remote watering systems

Anticipated Outcome:

- To provide assistance to producers along the Milk River and identified priority tributaries to build on their successes; identify and prioritize areas and resources required to maintain and improve healthy intact local watersheds.
- To provide watershed coordination and funding opportunities for stewardship initiatives.
- To communicate success stories from the WRRP to the membership, community at large, and the province.
- To be a leader and provide a model for watershed planning and advisory councils to undertake assistance programming for rural stakeholders.

Project Prioritization:

- Through consultation with municipal extension personnel, and in accordance with the goals and objectives set by the MRWCC, WRRP Project Review Committee.

Project Implementation:

1. Gap Analysis of stewardship activities and initiatives within the Milk River Watershed has been conducted to avoid duplication with other organizations with similar goals and interests.
2. Implement projects that meet the goals and outcomes of the project approved by WRRP steering committee.

Program Funding:

1. **Funded by Alberta Environment an Parks - \$70,000.00**

Method	Description	Amount (WRRP)
Bioengineering Streambank Stabilization measures	Install non-structural bioengineering streambank stabilization measures on 5 sites over the 3 year period	5,000.00
Tree/shrub establishment and regeneration	Plant material for the 5 sites over the 3 year period including maintenance work. Purchase and install of wildlife protection fencing for establishment purposes.	10,000.00
Riparian corridor fencing/Exclusion fencing	Construction and material over the 3 year period	50,000.00
Promotional Material (Factsheets)		2,000.00
Demonstration Tour	3 tours over the 3 year period	3,000.00
	Total Cost (over 3 years)	70,000.00

2. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry - \$130,000 through the Growing Forward Program

- Wintering Site Management
- Remote watering system

Project Timeline:

- Fall 2015 – Program initiation
- Winter/Summer 2016 – Application process
- 2016 – 2017 - Project Implementation and tours
- March 2018 – Finalize projects.