



# MILK RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE

## COMMENT SHEET

### Purpose

Your feedback is important to us. Your input into the Terms of Reference (TOR) will be used to ensure that the Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) reflects the needs of the people living and working in the Milk River watershed.

**1. Have you attended a workshop or meeting hosted by the Milk River Watershed Council Canada prior to viewing the Terms of Reference?**

Yes X No

**2. Have you had an opportunity to read through the Milk River State of the Watershed Report that was released in 2008 (available online at [www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca](http://www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca))?**

X Yes No

**3. Please rank the importance of the following six priority issues in order of importance (1 being most important).**

- 5 Limited, secure water supply,
- 6 Augmentation of natural flow by the St. Mary River diversion (particularly timing and volume),
- 4 Ability to maintain surface water and groundwater quality,
- 2 Ability to maintain wildlife and biodiversity,
- 3 Potential loss/degradation of wetlands and riparian areas,
- 1 Impact of land use (e.g. recreation, oil and gas, and agriculture) on watershed resources
- 7 Limited economic development opportunities due, in part, to the limited, secure supply of water resources.

**4. Are there additional issues or concerns, to those presented in Question 2 that you would like to see addressed in the Milk River Integrated Watershed Water Management Plan?**

X Yes No

**If yes, please describe:**

- The Milk River Watershed has some of Alberta's last remaining native grasslands, but the ToR barely mentions this. Protection of remaining native grasslands should be a priority.
- The ToR also barely refers to any influences on the Milk River watershed beyond Alberta's borders. Why not??
- ToR should also talk about possible impacts of future climatic change.

**5. Eight objectives were developed for the Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan in order to address the main issues in the watershed (see TOR Page 10 & 11). Do you agree with these objectives?**

Yes  No

**If no, please suggest changes:**

Generally, the objectives are OK. **Objective 1** must include minimum and maximum **seasonal** flows. Under **Objective 8** reads "Recommend land use and development practices which are congruent with the objectives and resource management strategies for the Milk River watershed." This is quite meaningless as written. It must include no net loss of remaining native grasslands.

**6. Do you have any additional information regarding the Milk River watershed that should be considered in the Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan?**

X Yes No

**If Yes, please describe:**

The ToR doesn't specify anywhere that it is talking only about the Albertan part of the Milk River watershed. This obviously imposes restrictions on decisions that can be made. Need more explanation of how this will fit in with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan which is due out later in 2010. Appendix D should include the federal Species at Risk Act, as it affects endangered species in the watershed.

Please provide your contact information so we can obtain your information in support of the work of the Planning Team \_\_\_\_\_ Nigel Douglas. [awa.nd@shaw.ca](mailto:awa.nd@shaw.ca) \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Do you have additional suggestions or concerns about the Public Consultation Process (Page 12 & 13 of the TOR) and project timelines (Page 16 of the TOR)?**

Stakeholders doesn't include recreationists (hikers, canoeists, birdwatchers), Albertans. Who represents wildlife, native ecosystems? "Government staff" do **not** represent wildlife or wilderness any more than they represent agriculture or industry. \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Overall, are you satisfied with the progress made this past year toward the development of the Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan? If no, please explain. You may use the back of this sheet to provide additional comments you feel are important.**

X Yes No

**9. Please keep me informed as the Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan develops.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nigel Douglas \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ [awa.nd@shaw.ca](mailto:awa.nd@shaw.ca) \_\_\_\_\_

The Terms of Reference and this feedback form can be accessed at the Milk River Watershed Council Canada Website: [www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca](http://www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca). Please submit completed comment sheets to Sandi Riemersma or any IWMP Team Member at the Open House. After the Open House, comment sheets can be faxed to: Sandi Riemersma (403) 647-3808 or mailed to:

Sandi Riemersma  
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