

Agri-Watershed Partnership



Background

PEI Watershed Alliance and PEI Federation of Agriculture initiative based on mutual interest to reduce the environmental impacts of agricultural runoff to watercourses

\$300k was initially granted by PEI Government

\$200k added in 19/20 budget



AWP Structure

Steering committee will deliver report to Government by December 2020
- extended to March 31, 2021

Support provided by Technical Working Group and other professional services as required



AWP Structure

Steering Committee

Representatives from:

PEI Watershed Alliance

PEI Federation of Agriculture

PEI Potato Board

PEI Department of Environment, Water & Climate Change

PEI Department of Agriculture & Land



AWP Structure

Technical Working Group

Potato Agronomist

Soil Health Specialist

Agri-Environmental Specialist

Potato Producer

Watershed Ecologist

Soil & Water Conservation Specialist

Watershed Biologist



Major Activities

Facilitate and support collaboration between watershed groups and the agricultural sector to effectively identify and prioritize critical areas for runoff control

Identify a collectively agreed upon set of Best Management Practices for farming near watercourses to address runoff issues and demonstrate environmental due diligence, particularly in light of extreme weather events and climate change



Best Management Practices

The first draft of the BMP list assembled by the Technical Working Committee in July 2019 was presented to a grower focus group in December 2019 and in February 2020 and presented to the farming community at large via an on-line survey in March 2020.



Focus Group* Feedback – major points

1. Fully addressing identified issues is an effort with an implementation period of years, not months and will require a considerable extension effort
2. More support will be needed to address barriers to implementation of some BMP's i.e. land retirement
3. Some practices, particularly cover cropping, can be highly dependant on the weather
4. Efforts should be focused only on fields closest to the watercourses



AgriWatershed
PARTNERSHIP

Online Survey Results – major points

1. 100% respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the health of PEI's soil and water is very important.
2. 92% agreed that climate change, and the risk of extreme weather events, is making managing land near watercourses more challenging
3. 81% cited funding as a significant barrier to implementing erosion control structures for runoff control
4. 43 % cited rented land as a significant barrier to implementing runoff controls



PEIAWP-BMP Program – Pilot Projects

In 2020, the AgriWatershed Partnership undertook 2 BMP pilot projects, with the goal of developing a framework for collaboration between landowners/farmers and local watershed personnel to identify and address specific runoff issues

In April 2020 requests were extended to watershed coordinators to submit potential project for areas where they had been engaging with landowners to solve a runoff problem that was impacting the nearby watercourse

A list of 9 potential projects were submitted and each project was ranked according to runoff criteria.



PEIAWP-BMP Program 2021

1. In August and September the 2 soil conservation projects were completed under the AWP-BMP Program
2. Plans are to extend the program for 2021 and beyond
3. Preliminary application intake is opens January 2nd, 2021 and ends February 26th , 2021
4. Both watershed personnel and landowners are eligible to initiate projects, and preliminary applications will require sign-off from both parties.



PEIAWP BMP Program 2021

1. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the AWP Technical Working Group
2. Project approval will be based on ranking and annual funding availability
3. Applicants will be notified by April 1st, 2021 if project is to be funded
4. Successful applicants will be asked to provide detailed project cost estimates after consultation with Soil & Water Engineer.



PEIAWP BMP Program 2021

1. Applicants will be reimbursed for all eligible expenses* at a rate of 75 %
1. Projects can extend over 2 years if recommended by Soil & Water Engineer
2. Requirements for project maintenance will be the same as for Provincial Stewardship programs

* See program guidelines



PEIAWP BMP Program 2021

Date	Component	Proponent
Jan 2nd- Feb 26th 2021	Application intake period	Farmers, watershed groups, landowners
March 1st- March 22nd	Pre-screening, application compilation, communication, initial meetings showing commitment, geospatial work (2-3hrs/project), timing, ground truthing, costing ,Ranking projects	AWP Co-ordinator, watershed group, farmer
March 22nd - April 1st	Committee meeting to discuss how many projects to move forward with (\$)	Technical Working Group
April 1st	Successful Applicants Notified	AWP Committee/Technical working group
April 15th - May 1st	agreements signed	AWP Co-ordinator,
April 15th- Oct 31st	Project Planning and Execution	Soil & Water Engineers, Dept of Agriculture & Land.
November	Project Reporting/Claim processing	

PEIAWP BMP Program 2021

Anyone interested in more information or applying for this program – please visit our website

<https://peiawp.com/>

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