

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SHEPARD REGIONAL DRAINAGE PLAN



1. What is the Shepard Drainage Corridor?

The Shepard Drainage Corridor (“the Corridor”) includes portions of Rocky View County, the City of Calgary and Town of Chestermere. The boundary of this study area extends from Township Road 254 on the north and the Bow River on the South. The major water features in the study area include the Western Headworks (WH) Canal, which intercepts the drainage from the north portion of the area, Chestermere Lake, the Shepard Stormwater Diversion Project and the Upper Shepard Slough Complex.

2. Why is the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan needed?

To accommodate long-term growth infrastructure planning, The City of Calgary and Town of Chestermere have recently annexed lands within the Corridor. Rocky View County has recently adopted a Growth Management Strategy entitled *Rocky View 2060*. Stormwater management infrastructure is an important aspect of the infrastructure planning process. The Shepard Regional Drainage Plan is one of the first steps of the planning process for this area.

The intent of the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan is to develop a stormwater servicing solution that would provide the Corridor (both north and south of the WH Canal) with a reasonable level of service while minimizing the effects on existing infrastructure and environmentally significant areas. The report being prepared by AECOM is the next step in a series of studies to develop a comprehensive plan for handling stormwater in the Corridor.

3. What is the history of the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan?

In 2008, a study was completed by Westhoff Engineering Resources for the Western Headworks Regional Stormwater Management Subcommittee, which had representation from Western Irrigation District, Alberta Environment, Rocky View County, Town of Chestermere, and The City of Calgary. The study was entitled, “*Drainage Servicing Strategies for the Shepard Drainage Corridor*”.

A key finding of this study was that stormwater drainage from newly developed lands cannot drain to the WH Canal and Chestermere Lake. The study recommended underdrains (pipes under the canal) to direct flows from the north under the WH canal to the Bow River via the Shepard bypass and ditch. The study also included a series of options for conveyance systems and release rates that needed further consideration by the Municipalities.

4. Who is conducting the study?

The Shepard Regional Drainage Committee (the successor to the Western Headworks Regional Stormwater Management Subcommittee) consists of representatives from the three Municipalities:

- City of Calgary
- Town of Chestermere
- Rocky View County

AECOM has been retained by the Committee to undertake the stormwater servicing analysis of the Corridor building on the work performed by Westhoff Engineering Resources.

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5. What steps are required to complete the plan?

The Shepard Regional Drainage Plan builds upon the work of the Shepard Drainage Servicing Strategies study, models stormwater conveyance/land use condition scenarios, identifies a preferred conveyance alignment, undertakes a Bio-physical Impact Assessment along the preferred conveyance alignment and develops a Regional Drainage Plan with specific targets to guide development in the area.

6. What work has been completed to date?

A draft Shepard Regional Drainage Plan has been prepared, and the report recommends a regional stormwater management solution for the Corridor. In addition to the Plan, a Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA) has also been completed.

The Plan contains the following information:

- The proposed location of the stormwater conveyance system
- The best location for underdrains that will convey stormwater from north of the Western Headworks Canal to the south
- A summary of BIA conclusions and recommendations
- Delineation of sub-catchments with the Corridor based on topography.
- Results of the hydrological and hydraulic assessment including an assessment of Low Impact Development practices
- Preliminary costs of the various drainage options including LID practices.
- Study recommendations

7. How will natural areas be protected?

The Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA) was a key component of the project. The results and conclusions of the BIA provided crucial information for many of the decisions made during the development of the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan. The BIA is a second document, but a summary of the assessment and the relevant inputs have been included in the Plan.

The BIA was completed along the centerline of the preferred conveyance alignments, within an area up to 100 m to either side. Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA's) were identified, including native grasslands, wetlands, natural drainages, and other natural habitat areas. These were categorized and analyzed for rare plant and animal communities, significant migrant bird habitats, wildlife corridors, and, if any were identified, the conveyance alignments were altered to avoid these areas. The study recommended avoidance of ESA's and significant wetlands to maintain their function and a drainage solution that minimized impacts to ESA's and natural areas with ecologically important components. This included the continued supply of water sources to natural wetland areas, such that the natural hydro-period and hydrology of the wetlands was not affected in the long-term.

8. How is information being communicated with land owners in the area?

To date three open houses have been completed (May 2010, November 2010 and June 2011). The purpose of the open houses was to obtain feedback from stakeholders and present the findings of the study. The feedback obtained at the open houses was taken into consideration in the preparation of the report.

The stakeholder engagement process for this project has been completed, and no further public consultation is expected at this time.

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9. What if a conveyance route has been identified on my land?

If a conveyance route has been identified within your land you can expect that, during the detailed design study, a representative from your respective municipality will be in touch with you to discuss any implications and opportunities. This study will take place over an extended period of time. You will not be contacted until such time as the study impacts your land.

10. What are the next steps in the planning process?

The Shepard Regional Drainage Committee is prepared to begin the approval process for the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan. Once approval has been obtained, a final report will be released to the public. The approval process is expected to take several months to complete.

Subsequent studies will follow at the development stages in the Corridor and will include more detailed plans and provide additional opportunities for community input.

11. Where can I go for further information?

If you have further questions please contact the committee representative for your respective municipality.

Municipality	Contact Name	Phone Number
City of Calgary	Norma Posada	(403) 268-4779
Town of Chestermere	Dan Olson	(403) 207-7045
Rocky View County	Vince Diot	(403) 520-7287