

RESEARCH and MONITORING WORKING GROUP (RAMWG) TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 18, 2020

Type

Standing

Background

Low Impact Development (LID) includes emerging practices that can achieve a variety of stormwater objectives, along with delivering multiple ancillary benefits. Practices can be designed in a variety of ways, yielding different levels and types of performance. Research and monitoring are necessary to understand performance under local conditions. Results will inform design decisions to achieve varying performance objectives as well as enable more accurate accounting in various types of analyses.

There are a number of ad hoc LID research and monitoring initiatives underway in Alberta through various agencies, including the ALIDP. A working group that takes a coordinated approach, involving members from industry, academia and municipalities, would add value to current and future initiatives.

Purpose

1. Identify industry-relevant research needs
2. Coordinate data sharing and analysis
3. Foster collaboration to leverage expertise, reduce duplication of effort, and share resources
4. Review and contextualize findings according to implications for practical design and analysis and allied objectives (e.g., carbon sequestration, biodiversity) and disseminate findings
5. Provide oversight and peer-review on ALIDP RAM projects

Scope

The RAMWG will hold a quarterly meeting with a defined theme or objective. The WG will be interdisciplinary in nature, supported by sub-groups convened from time to time to explore specialist topics.

Initially, the focus will be on intake and review of information on existing initiatives and the development of a list and prioritization of desired investigations. As the group evolves, it is envisaged that there will be more event-style open gatherings to share and discuss the group's activities and receive broader input from partners and other stakeholders.

The RAMWG will liaise through the Chair with the ALIDP's Events and Activities Working Group (EAWG) who will provide support to organize events.

*Equipping Albertans to create vibrant, ecologically functional landscapes
within the built environment, through comprehensive stormwater management.*

As a new committee, the RAMWG has latitude to explore additional modes that will support its purposes.

The WG is not expected to directly undertake tasks associated with the research and monitoring activities of the ALIDP.

Membership

The Chair will be appointed biennially by the Board of Directors. Membership in the working group is by invitation of the Chair or Director, or by a call for volunteers through the ALIDP, and should be partners of the ALIDP. Members are expected to commit to a one-year term. Directors and the Executive Director are ex officio members. Non-members of the RAM WG may be invited to meetings to facilitate topical discussions.

Authority and Reporting

If the Chair is a Director, they will report at Board Meetings. If the Chair is not a Director, they will report to the Executive Director, President, or other person designated by the Board of Directors.

Meeting Arrangements

Meetings will be held quarterly at the Calgary Water Centre or at another mutually agreeable location at the call of the Chair. An agenda will be distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Teleconference numbers and GoToMeetings will be set up by ALIDP staff for remote participants.

Resources and Budget

There is no budget for meetings, however a budget for events will be available and should be coordinated with the EAWG.

Deliverables

- Develop and maintain a list of research and monitoring initiatives in Alberta
- Develop an approach and warehouse data, papers, reports and other information for sharing among ALIDP partners and stakeholders
- Provide oversight and peer review on ALIDP projects
- Identify practical knowledge gaps and propose projects to fill them
- Review current initiatives and recommend messaging to inform partners and stakeholders of findings
- Report at the ALIDP Annual General Meeting, typically in June

Data Sharing

The ALIDP has collected data on various landscaping practices since 2017. Members of the RAMWG and their employees, colleagues, and/or students may be involved in viewing, reviewing and analyzing this data. All RAM WG members are required to enter into a Data Sharing Agreement with the ALIDP before accessing ALIDP data.

Discussions are considered public information unless identified as confidential by the RAM WG.

Code of Conduct

Members of Working Groups are expected to:

- represent the interests of the ALIDP over personal interests.
- adhere to the Bylaws, Policies, and other guidance of the ALIDP.
- present the ALIDP in a positive manner.
- obtain express permission to share confidential information from the person who identified it as confidential.
- not use the resources of the ALIDP for personal gain.

Guiding Ideas and Ideals

Refer to <http://www.alidp.org/about/governance/strategy> to familiarize yourself with the ALIDP's Mission, Vision, Values and Strategy.

Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually in the first quarter of the year.