

## **Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP) General Process Description for Sectoral AEGPs**

AEGPs can be developed on a geographic/physical (e.g. watershed) or on a sectoral/commodity basis. This document outlines the process for sectoral AEGPs.

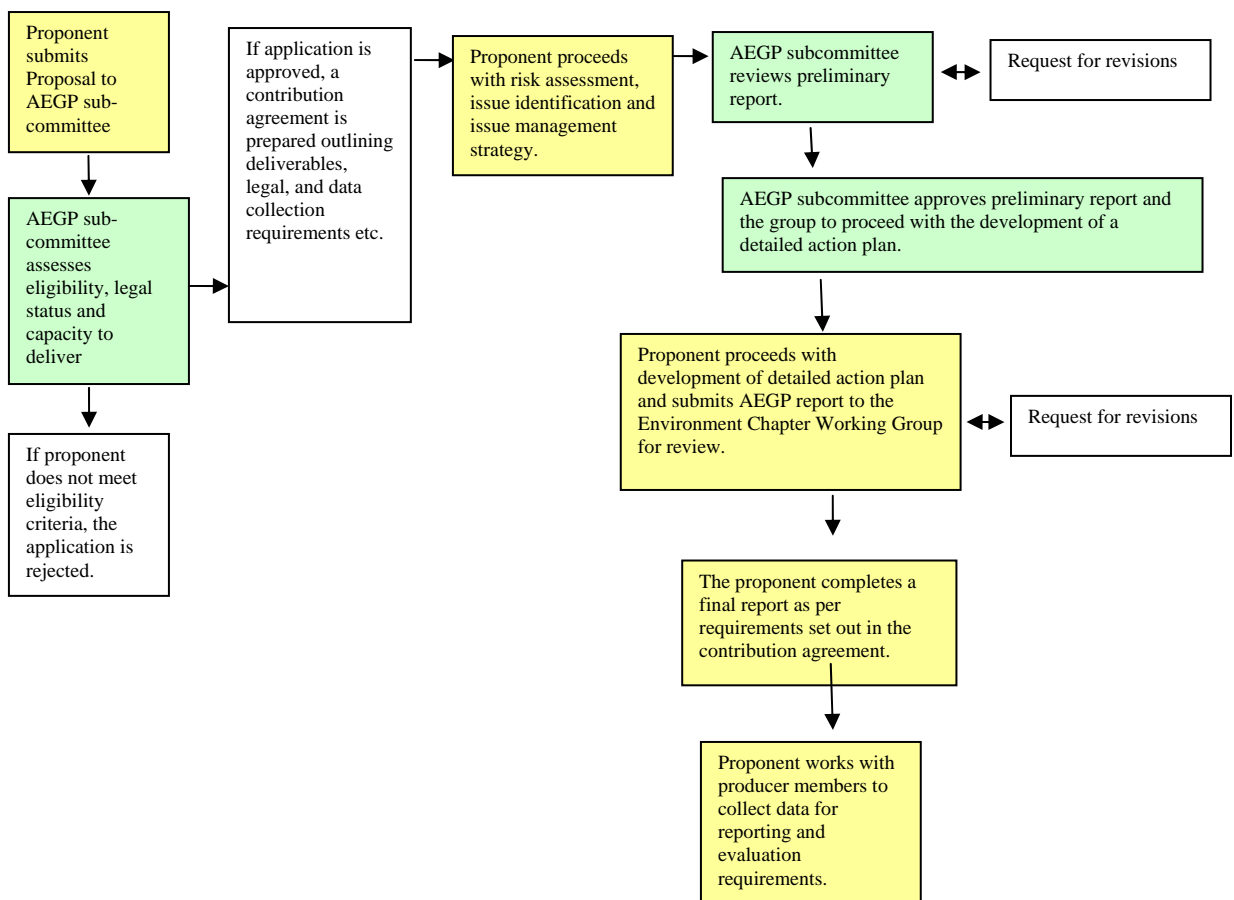
Sectoral AEGPs allow commodity groups or associations to strategically address an agri-environmental issue that is of concern to their sector. Most sectoral or commodity based groups are well developed and have a long history of addressing issues related to their particular sector or commodity. As a result, sectoral agri-environmental issues tend to be well defined and specific to the sector. The sectoral AEGP may involve the whole province or areas delineated by administrative boundaries.

- 1) The **proponent** develops an AEGP proposal as outlined in the Proposal Guidelines and submits it prior to an application deadline.
- 2) The **AEGP Sub-Committee** assesses the proponent's eligibility, legal status and capability to carry out an AEGP. If the proposal is approved by the **Environment Chapter Working Group (ECWG)**, a member of the subcommittee works with the proponent to refine the proposal. When the proposal is complete, the proponent enters into a contribution agreement with **AAFC-PFRA**. The contribution agreement identifies available funding for delivery of the AEGP and details deliverables and legal requirements. The AEGP project may include provision for the proponent to hire a **Group Planning Advisor** to assist in implementing the AEGP project.
- 3) The **proponent** proceeds with a risk assessment which involves a description of the agri-environmental issues and the process for identifying the priority issue. This will involve consultations through workshops or surveys to arrive at a consensus, preliminary data analysis (imagery, maps, tables etc) used in identifying the priority issue.
- 4) The **proponent** completes an issue management strategy. This strategy may involve a search for broad-based solutions that are not necessarily focused towards funding for beneficial management practices available through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. Extension and awareness about the issue and possible solutions is a key component of the strategy. Wherever practical, the group will identify potential partners and knowledge gaps as part of the issue management strategy. The strategy also includes setting targets or goals in addressing the issue. In some cases this may mean targeting specific priority areas determined by the issue. These areas are typically delineated by administrative boundaries such as RMs, community pastures, etc.
- 5) A preliminary report including the description of the agri-environmental issues within the sector and the process for identifying their priority issue as well as the issue management strategy is sent to the **AEGP Sub-Committee** for review and approval.
- 6) The **proponent** moves to completion of the detailed action plan, with emphasis on raising awareness about agri-environmental issue and achieving the group's targets/goals.

7) The AEGP composed of the risk assessment, issue management strategy and action plan is compiled and submitted to the **Environment Chapter Working Group (ECWG)**. Upon Working Group approval of the AEGP the **proponent** proceeds in implementing its group plan.

As part of the implementation the **proponent** works with PCAB to arrange EFP workshops. In some cases these may be special workshops tailored with special emphasis on the particular issue along with the overall EFP process. The **Group Planning Advisor** assists producer members with completion their individual action plans and encourages them to include actions that address the priority issue.

8) The **proponent** works with the **AEGP Sub Committee** to fulfill requirements under the contribution agreement and to ensure capture of information to fulfill data collection, reporting and evaluation requirements.



**Figure 1:** Sectoral AEGP process