

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #34

June 14, 2012

Executive Royal Inn, Nisku, Alberta

Executive Summary

Board members enjoyed a field trip the day before the meeting. The field trip was sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada and featured several examples of wetland restoration projects in the Bittern Lake area.

The last two water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) sector plans were presented to the Board. The Chemistry Industry Association of Canada led the development of the chemical sector plan and identified ten CEP opportunities. The power generation plan identified six CEP opportunities for that sector, including some that will provide direct benefits to consumers. Because this sector has no umbrella organization, plan development was led by ATCO Power, Capital Power and TransAlta.

The Board received updates on three projects, all of which will be conducting stakeholder engagement over the summer prior to presenting their final reports and recommendations to the Board in October. These projects are:

- *Water for Life* Implementation Review
- Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity
- Non-Point Source Pollution

The board followed up on its March strategic planning workshop. Three champions were identified to prepare Statements of Opportunity. Others can still prepare and submit a Statement of Opportunity by July 15th. All screened Statements of Opportunity will be considered at the October meeting in selecting new work for the Council.

The next Board meeting will be held on October 25 in Calgary.

Summary of Discussion

Rob Pritchard convened the business meeting at 9:05 a.m. Those present introduced themselves. Rob thanked Ducks Unlimited Canada for hosting the field trip on June 13 to the Bittern Lake area to view wetlands restoration projects. Tracy Scott provided a brief summary of the day, accompanied by a short slide presentation.

1 Administration

1.1 Welcome and Approve Agenda

The chair drew the board's attention to the work plan for activities over the summer in preparation for the October meeting. He then reviewed the agenda, which was approved by consensus.

1.2 Summary Report from March 22, 2012 Meeting

Decision 34.1: The summary report for the March 22, 2012 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

1.3 Action Items from March 22, 2012 Meeting

Gord Edwards reported that the three action items from the March 22, 2012 meeting were assigned to staff and have been completed.

1.4 Management Report and Update from the Government of Alberta (GoA)

Gord Edwards referred the Board to the management report in the briefing package. He reiterated the amount of work to be done over the summer with several projects wrapping up and new ones to be identified. Gord reminded the board to provide comments on the first draft of the Process Guidelines by July 6. His report also included a spent-to-date summary.

Evelynne Wrangler provided an update from the GoA, referring especially to the merger of two departments to become Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD). Although the new Deputy Minister, Dana Woodworth, was unable to attend this meeting, he looks forward to becoming involved with the Council. Evelynne gave a short summary of the status of the wetlands policy, noting that some details are still being developed and a policy is expected to be ready by the end of this year. AESRD will soon be engaging with Albertans on water, and major policy decisions will await the results of those discussions. The *Water for Life* strategy remains the foundation for water policy work.

2 Water for Life Implementation Review Committee

Tom Davis and Lisa Maria Fox reviewed the work done to date on this, the fourth review of *Water for Life (WFL)* Implementation progress. This review is a "snapshot" of *WFL* as of December 31, 2011 and will inform the next renewal of *WFL* in 2013. A great deal of work has been completed but some new things are emerging that the committee needs a little more time to address. A summary table presented what the committee has learned to date, noting that only 9% of the actions in the six categories are completed. The rest are in various stages of progress or under review. Key themes and highlights of the draft report were shared with the board. The committee is working to align the report with its terms of reference and to also take into account prior recommendations to ensure its final report provides clear guidance to

the GoA. Sector engagement will take place over the summer with the final report coming to the board in October.

3 Sector Planning for CEP – Chemical Plan

Al Schulz presented the Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan for the chemical sector, prepared by the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC). This plan complements the plan for the Downstream Petroleum sector, presented at the March 2012 board meeting. Al provided an overview of the industry in Alberta and the CIAC's Responsible Care® program, briefly describing water use patterns and the ten CEP opportunities identified in the plan. The sector regards the CEP plan as a work in progress and expects to make further enhancements in future years. Community advisory panels as well as two WPACs in the areas where the sector operates (the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance) will be asked to review the plan. Implementation progress will be monitored annually by the Alberta Environmental Quality Committee.

During discussion with the board, Al provided the following responses to questions:

- Community advisory panels are composed of individuals selected by the companies and are facilitated by an independent person. The intention is to have a two-way dialogue with people who are linked to their communities.
- Cooling with air rather than water might offer some options, but the practicality and economics have not been examined in any depth.
- Some companies do have cogeneration facilities nearby, but capital stock turnover is an important consideration in these arrangements.

The following feedback was provided:

- Ensuring that CEP plans protect healthy aquatic ecosystems continues to be an interest. One way to do this is for sectors to work with WPACs to examine impacts and stresses on the watersheds in which they operate, then consider how to alleviate them. It was noted that WPACs are doing a lot of work to better understand water quality and identify “pinch points” and in-stream flow needs. As well, some of the stresses may be seasonal.
- Consider including feedback from the advisory panels and WPACs in the sector's final CEP report.

4 Sector Planning for CEP – Power Generation Plan

Jim Hackett presented the water CEP plan for the power generation sector. The CEP plan focuses on the whole sector, but was coordinated by three generation companies (ATCO Power, Capital Power and TransAlta). The report is now being reviewed and a final version will be available in July. About 30 power generators are active in Alberta. The sector has already made a number of significant improvements to increase water CEP through technology and the transition away from thermal generation. Water is consumed in this sector mainly through cooling and water loss through evaporation. The sector recognizes that regulatory changes to achieve one environmental objective could affect another objective; e.g., air emission controls could increase water consumption. The sector identified six opportunity areas for water CEP, including some that will provide direct benefits to consumers.

A brief discussion period followed the presentation and included the following:

- Recognizing that CEP plans are voluntary, the sector was asked to consider including some assessment of “pinch points” related to its water diversion licences in the final report. It was also suggested that impacts on the watersheds in which power generators operate be considered in the final report (e.g., temperature impacts) and that opportunities be identified for working with WPACs as appropriate to benefit aquatic ecosystems.
- The sector is aiming to develop a metric for water consumed per megawatt-hour of production. It is difficult to produce a metric for cogeneration, and although there is a lot of opportunity for cogeneration in Alberta, especially in the oil sands, this is not included in the forecast. This omission would only be significant in northern Alberta.
- All sectors are encouraged to regard their plans as dynamic and to seek continuous improvement over time.

5 Sector Planning for CEP Project Team

John Skowronski reviewed the CEP team’s objectives and briefly summarized progress since the last update to the board. CEP plans from the seven major water-using sectors have all been presented to Council and are in various stages of implementation. The team’s draft final report includes three recommendations related to timing and content of sector progress reports on CEP plan implementation, and to the establishment of a new CEP team. Sector engagement on the draft report will occur over the summer and guidance for providing feedback will be provided in writing and by the sector leads on the team.

During a brief discussion, concerns about ensuring benefits to aquatic ecosystems were noted. Some sectors have indicated a willingness to return water they no longer need to the owner of the resource (i.e., the GoA), who will then determine how that conserved water will be used. The team stresses in its report the need for the GoA to address issues related to water allocation and the fate of conserved water, reiterating the 2009 Council recommendations.

6 Strategic Planning Workshop Report

Petra Rowell reviewed the results of the March strategic planning workshop. The task for this meeting was to use those results to propose new areas of potential work for the Council and identify champions to develop a statement of opportunity (SOO) for each area. Petra reviewed the four areas of potential activity that emerged from the workshop, noting the drivers for each. Each topic was discussed, with key points noted below, and the board then selected projects for which SOOs would be developed.

1. Education and Awareness

- In upcoming GoA conversations on water management with Albertans, there may be an opportunity for the Council to host a conference, similar to the water allocation symposium. The executive, in response to a recommendation in the Sustainable Funding Report, will be proposing that the Council look at hosting conferences from time to time, with the understanding they are cost neutral and advance the goals of *Water for Life*.
- The Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems report contained a recommendation related to education, and the Moving from Words to Action report includes a recommendation regarding opportunities to share information about projects and activities.

2. Research, Knowledge and Information to achieve WFL Outcomes

- A key challenge is communicating research outcomes and prioritizing how we invest in research. The value of research increases if presented in collaborative way. Organizations such as WPACs, AUMA, AAMDC and others would likely have an interest in this approach, but it will be essential to identify the client for such a project and to determine how the Council would add value.

3. Cumulative Effects on a Finite Resource

- This topic may not be suitable for the Council to pursue.
- Addressing this issue was viewed as being within the GoA’s purview.

4. Headwaters Protection Strategy

- A draft SOO was previously prepared, championed by the Fisheries Habitat Conservation group. However, this project would require commitment and involvement from the GoA as it relates to provincial land, regulation, regional planning and other aspects within the GoA’s purview.
- There are many different kinds of headwaters, but the project is scalable and would provide value if done on a large or small scale.
- It may be advisable to use different wording than “protection” (e.g., conservation and management).
- As with all projects, it will be important to build on other AWC work (in this case, ecologically significant areas) and to ensure the product is something the GoA can use and respond to.

Other topics

- The capture and re-use of storm drainage water is an emerging issue, especially the practice of using it to augment existing allocations. Alberta also has no clear policy on rainwater re-use and reclamation.
- It was noted that storm drainage could be used in lieu of cleaner water sources. This topic potentially overlaps with work underway by the Non-Point Source Pollution team.

In Summary

The following champions agreed to prepare SOOs:

SOO Topic	Champion
Research, Knowledge and Information to achieve <i>WFL</i> Outcomes	Dave Hill
Headwaters Strategy	Jeff Surtees
Storm Drainage Reuse and Management	Judy Stewart

It was noted that others could champion a topic not identified through this process and submit a SOO to the Executive Director. All SOOs must be submitted by July 15 to allow sufficient time for review and possible revision. Staff will forward a complete package to the board prior to the October meeting, with the intent of selecting new work at that meeting.

7 Non-Point Source Pollution Project Team

Stephanie Neufeld and John Englert updated the board on this project, which arose from work of the Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Team in 2009. The project focused on surface water only. John and Stephanie reviewed the objectives and tasks of the team and the process to gather information and develop their recommendations. Phase 1 of the project involved an assessment of the current state of non-point source pollution knowledge in Alberta and phase 2 involved a review of policies, practices, and regulatory tools used by select jurisdictions to manage non-point source pollution. The team used the knowledge gleaned from these two major reports to develop its own report and recommendations. Stakeholder engagement on the draft report will take place over the summer, with a package distributed in July; sectors will have about six weeks to gather input.

8 Status Reports

The chair directed the board to the status report in the briefing book; there were no questions.

9 New or Other Business

There was no new or other business.

Copies of the Council's 2011 annual report were provided.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Attachment 1: Meeting #34 Attendees

Council Directors and Alternates

Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)
Elaine Bellamy, Industry (Cropping)
Ken Brown, NGO (WPACs)
Bob Cameron, NGO (Environmental)
Carolyn Campbell, NGO (Environmental)
Lars De Pauw, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Les Gammie, NGO (WPACs)
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)
David Hill, GOA and Provincial Authorities
(Alberta Innovates – Energy-
Environment Solutions)
Jenny Hong, GOA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Health)
Al Kemmere, Government (Rural)
Stuart Lunn, Industry (Mining)
Sharon McKinnon, Industry (Cropping)
Ron McMullin, Industry (Irrigation)
Audrey Murray, GOA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Energy)
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)
Rob Pritchard, Government (Large Urban)
Janelle Saskiw, Government (Small Urban)

Al Schulz, Industry (Chemical and
Petrochemical)
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetland Habitat
Conservation)
John Skowronski, Industry (Chemical and
Petrochemical)
Jeff Surtees, NGO (Fisheries Habitat
Conservation)
Judy Stewart, NGO (Lake Environment
Conservation)
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment
Conservation)
Evelynne Wrangler, GOA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Environment and
Sustainable Resource Development)
Jamie Wuite, GOA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and
Rural Development)
Gord Edwards, AWC Executive Director

Presenters:

Gord Edwards, *Report on Action Items; Management Report* (Items 1.3, 1.4)
Tom Davis and Lisa Maria Fox, *Water for Life Implementation Review* (Item 2.0)
Al Schulz, *Sector Planning for CEP: Chemical Plan* (Item 3.0)
Jim Hackett, *Sector Planning for CEP: Power Generation Plan* (Item 4.0)
John Skowronski, *Sector Planning for CEP Project Team* (Item 5.0)
Petra Rowell, *Strategic Planning Workshop Report* (Item 6.0)
Stephanie Neufeld and John Englert, *Non-Point Source Pollution* (Item 7.0)

Guests:

Ron Axelson, Intensive Livestock Working Group
Scott Millar, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Sharon Willianen, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

AWC Staff and Contractors:

Andre Asselin, Jennifer Beepat, Alesha Hill, Petra Rowell, Kim Sanderson, Terry Sly

Absent with Regrets:

Chris Fordham, Industry (Mining)

Dawn Friesen, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health)

Colin Jeffares, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development)

Robert L'Hirondelle, Government (Metis Settlements General Council)

Perry McCormick, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)

Jennifer Steber, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)

Dana Woodworth, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment and Sustainable
Resource Development)

Attachment 2: Meeting #34 Action Item Log

No administrative action items were noted for this meeting.

Attachment 3: Decision Log

Decision 34.1: The summary report for the March 22, 2012 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL
AGENDA, MEETING #34

June 14, 2012
Executive Royal Inn – Nisku
8450 Sparrow Drive

NOTE: Broad Category caucusing from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

GENERAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL

- 9:00 1.0 Administration – Chair 30 min**
1.1 Welcome, review health and safety and approve agenda
1.2 Approve Summary Report from March 22, 2012 meeting
1.3 Review of actions from last meeting
1.4 Review Management Report
- 9:30 2.0 Water for Life Implementation Review Committee 45 min**
Receive an explanation why the committee needs more time to complete its work, an overview of the key themes identified for the report and information on the upcoming sector engagement on the committee's draft report.
- 10:15 3.0 Sector Planning for CEP – Chemical Plan 30 min**
Hear a presentation on the CEP plan prepared by members of the Chemical sector.
- 10:45 Break 15 min**
- 11:00 4.0 Sector Planning for CEP – Power Generation Plan 30 min**
Hear a presentation on the CEP plan prepared by members of the Power Generation sector.
- 11:30 5.0 Sector Planning for CEP Project Team 30 min**
Receive an update on the team's work, including information on the upcoming sector engagement on the team's draft report.
- 12:00 Lunch (provided in the room) 45 min**
- 12:45 6.0 Strategic Planning Workshop Report 60 min**
Using the results of the March strategic planning workshop, engage in a facilitated session to identify potential new work and champions to prepare Statements of Opportunity and then review the project selection process for the October Board meeting.
- 1:45 7.0 Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Project Team 30 min**
Receive an update on the team's work, including information on the upcoming sector engagement on the team's draft report.
- 2:15 8.0 Status Reports 15 min**
Refer members to status reports in the board package with a brief opportunity for questions or clarification.
- 2:30 9.0 New or Other Business 15 min**
New items of business or other items of information for Council.
- 2:45 Adjournment**