

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #10

**March 22-23, 2006
Greenwood Inn, Calgary, Alberta**

Summary Report

Key Points:

- Council approved the 2006-09 business plan, and approved in principle the 2006-07 operational plan.
- Council affirmed the transition process to an arm's length organization and formed a subcommittee to work with the secretariat to develop a plan for the transition. The subcommittee will report on its progress and seek further direction as required at the May and September Council meetings.
- Council approved terms of reference for a Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity project team.
- Council approved terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function project team, and disbanded the Water Research Steering Committee.
- Members heard a presentation from Lorne Fitch, Cows & Fish program on the function and value of riparian habitat.

Attachments to the Meeting Summary:

1. Attendees
2. Action Item Log
3. Decision Log
4. Meeting Agenda

Summary of Discussion

Strategic Planning

Council continued its strategic planning at this meeting, focusing on the business plan and the operational plan, with the following outcomes:

Decision 10.1: The Alberta Water Council approved the 2006-2009 business plan, version 4.2 (March 3, 2006), with minor changes.

Decision 10.2: Council approved in principle the 2006-2007 Operational Plan, version 1.2.

Decision 10.3: Council agreed that a communications strategy should be developed, and that the Secretariat will work with the executive on this task.

Action 10.1: The secretariat will compile updated membership lists and goals for all working groups, project teams and subcommittees for distribution to Council members.

Action 10.2: Council members will advise Terry Sly of their interest in participating in the new groups identified in the operational plan will advise Terry Sly.

Action 10.3: The secretariat will work with the executive to develop a communications strategy that identifies what the Council wants to communicate and to whom, and potential forms for getting the message out. Communications experts can then be consulted to develop the content.

Action 10.4: The secretariat will work with the designer and printer to publish the business plan, post it on the Council website, and consider opportunities to promote it when developing the draft communications strategy.

General Business Meeting

Peter Watson convened the business meeting at 8:30 am.

1 Administration

1.1 Review of Agenda

Peter Watson reviewed the agenda, noting that the order of the riparian habitat presentation and the Knowledge Broker discussion will be reversed. With this change, the agenda was approved.

1.2 Approval of Summary Report from January 18-19, 2006 Meeting

The summary report from the January 18-19, 2006 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the AWC website.

1.3 Action Items from January 18-19, 2006 Meeting

Petra Rowell reviewed the action items from the last meeting and provided a status update for each one. All actions have been completed or are on the agenda for this meeting.

1.4 Media, Communications and Outreach Activities

Petra Rowell provided a short summary of recent communications activities:

- Ron Pearson made two presentations on Water Allocation Issues in the South Saskatchewan Basin, one to the Alberta Flyfishers in Edmonton on February 6, and one to Trout Unlimited staff in Calgary on February 23.
- A number of AWC members participated in the second day of the recent WPAC Leadership Summit. This two-day summit, lead by Bill Berzins, was an opportunity for the board members and management of each WPAC to discuss common issues. During the AWC engagement portion, David Hill provided an overview of the Alberta Water Council, and the AWC members participated in a dialogue session.
- Terry Sly made a presentation on the work of the AWC to Alberta Environment Central Region on February 28.
- The latest issue of the Fossil Water Report featured an article entitled “Fossil Water Contributes Leadership to Water for Life.” The article also recognizes Bill Berzins as the Chair of the Bow River Basin Council and as a member of the Executive of the Alberta Water Council.
- Bill Berzins has made presentations to the North Saskatchewan, Bow River and Red Deer WPACs on the Council’s business plan.

Peter Watson advised that the Government of Alberta released its 2006-07 budget today. In addition to the core programs for water management in Alberta Environment, the department has allocated an additional \$10-million this year to Water for Life initiatives, which is almost double last year’s allocation. This level is expected to remain steady for the next three years. About \$75-million has been allocated across government departments for capital and operating expenditures, which includes water and wastewater systems. There is a big demand for these funds, and there will be future opportunities to adjust the capital spending plan for Water for Life and for water and wastewater expenditures. With the completion of the water research strategy, funds can start to be allocated to research programs and this will be coordinated with Alberta Innovation and Science. AENV has also allocated about \$2-million to support WPACs. Alberta Transportation has made policy adjustments to provide incentives and remove barriers for communities to participate in a regional system where it makes sense to do so.

1.5 Executive Committee Report

The executive met on March 2. Petra Rowell reviewed the highlights from the meeting and directed members to the summary that was included in their briefing package for details.

2 Transition to an Arm’s Length Organization

Building on the CASA presentation at the last Council meeting, a workshop was held to help members develop a common understanding of what it means to be an arm’s length organization. Donna Tingley and Mike Kelly described how CASA had addressed the key foundational questions of interest to the Council: accountability, relationship with the Government of Alberta, membership and member selection, secretariat, and budget. This was followed by a facilitated discussion.

Decision 10.4: Council affirmed its commitment to the timelines and transition process agreed to in November, and established a multi-stakeholder subcommittee to lead the development of options and proposals for the transition.

Action 10.5: The secretariat will poll for dates and convene the first meeting of the Transition Subcommittee. The subcommittee will report on any progress and/or options for the Council to consider around addressing the key fundamental questions at the May 2006 Council meeting.

3 Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Working Group

Dave Hill, chair of the Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Working Group, presented the draft terms of reference for a project team. He reviewed the goals, key tasks, deliverables, membership and other elements, noting that a more detailed workplan with clear timelines and budget will be prepared for the next Council meeting. The team expects to have a draft report for Council to consider by the end of 2006. Council discussion focused on the three key areas of work for the team, particularly the third area on performance measures.

Decision 10.5: Council approved the terms of reference for a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Project Team, replacing the third focus area for the team with the following: “Determine appropriate methodologies for reporting progress on conservation, efficiency and productivity.”

Action 10.6: The new project team will present a detailed workplan with clear timelines and budget to fulfill its mandate at the May 2006 Council meeting.

4 Presentation on Riparian Habitat

Lorne Fitch made a presentation on the function and value of riparian habitat to the Council. Lorne is a fisheries biologist who has worked on riparian systems since the beginning of his career, including the very successful, award-winning Cows and Fish program. He is the Provincial Riparian Specialist with Cows and Fish, and an Adjunct Professor with the University of Calgary. He noted that the Cows and Fish program has created significant change in awareness and action among landowners, but that it does take time. He stressed the importance of helping landowners, and Albertans generally, to better understand their landscape and how it works, particularly with respect to watersheds and people’s link to water. Having this commitment at the community level ensures that riparian protection continues beyond what individuals can do. Lorne distributed packages of information about the Cows and Fish program to Council members.

5 Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Working Group

Linda VanGastel presented the draft terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team, reviewing the origin of the idea, goals, actions and deliverables. This function is needed to support identification and prioritization of knowledge needs, and to facilitate meeting those needs. The team will take a broad consultative approach to ensure that the needs of the water management community are heard and that the critical relationships within this community are identified and understood.

Linda also directed members to the one-page report from the Water Research Steering Committee in the briefing book. She noted that this committee has completed its mandate and is asking the Council to disband it.

Decision 10.6: The Council approved the terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team.

Decision 10.7: The Council agreed to dissolve the Water Research Steering Committee.

6 Other Business

Jonathan Thompson provided a brief update on the work of the Wetlands Policy Team. They expect to have completed the Aboriginal consultations in a month or so, which is the final consultation phase. The team is working with the 1993 policy and will be refining it in light of recent input.

Action 10.7: The secretariat will distribute the presentations made by Council members at this meeting to all members.

7 Key Messages and Preparation for the Next Meeting

The following key points were proposed and accepted:

- Council approved the 2006-09 business plan, and approved in principle the 2006-07 operational plan.
- Council affirmed the transition process to an arm's length organization and formed a subcommittee to work with the secretariat to develop a plan for the transition. The subcommittee will report on its progress and seek further direction as required at the May and September Council meetings.
- Council approved terms of reference for a Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity project team.
- Council approved terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function project team, and disbanded the Water Research Steering Committee.
- Members heard a presentation from Lorne Fitch on the function and value of riparian habitat.

The next meeting will be May 17-18, with a field trip on May 17. The meeting will be held at the Rafter Six Resort west of Calgary. The chair reminded members to complete the evaluation form and return it to Petra Rowell today.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Attachment 1: Meeting #10 Attendees

Council Members:

Bob Barss, Government (Rural)
Bill Berzins, Non-government Organization (Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils)
Gerald Cunningham, Government (Métis Settlements General Council)
Rick Denton, Industry (Forestry)
John Donner, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development)
David Hill, Industry (Irrigation)
Joyce Ingram, Province (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)
Gloria Keays, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)
Mike Kelly, Industry (Power Generation)
Al Kennedy, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
Lisa King, Government (First Nations)
Al Maurer, Government (Large Urban)
Joe Miller, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)
Larry Nolan, Industry (Livestock)
Ron Pearson, Non-government Organization (Fishery Habitat Conservation)
Richard Quail, Government (Small Urban)
Margaret Reine, Non-government Organization (Environmental)
Judy Smith, Industry (Mining)
Kevin Stashin, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Kim Sturgess, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Economic Development Authority)
Jonathan Thompson, Non-government Organization (Wetland Habitat Conservation)
Linda Van Gastel, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Science and Research Authority)
Jim Vollmershausen, Government (Environment Canada)
Peter Watson, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)
Jay White, Non-government Organization (Lake Environment Conservation)

Guest Presenter:

Lorne Fitch, Cows and Fish Program
Donna Tingley, Executive Director, CASA

Observers:

Tony Starlight, Tsuu T'ina Treaty 7
Kevin Wirtanen, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Support Staff:

Robert Harrison Kim Sanderson
Petra Rowell

Absent with Regrets:

Nick Bayliss, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)
Brad Pickering, Province (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)

Attachment 2: Meeting #10 Action Item Log

Action	Who	By when
10.1: Compile updated membership lists and goals for all working groups, project teams and subcommittees for distribution to Council members.	Secretariat	April 3, 2006
10.2: Advise Terry Sly of their interest in participating in the new groups identified in the operational plan.	Council members	April 17, 2006
10.3: Develop a communications strategy that identifies what the Council wants to communicate and to whom, and potential forms for getting the message out. Communications experts can then be consulted to develop the content.	Secretariat & Executive	May 4, 2006
10.4: Work with the designer and printer to publish the business plan, post it on the Council website, and consider opportunities to promote it when developing the draft communications strategy.	Secretariat	April 30, 2006
10.5: Poll for dates and convene the first meeting of the Transition Subcommittee.	Secretariat	April 10, 2006
Report on any progress and options for the Council to consider around addressing the key fundamental questions at the May 2006 Council meeting.	Transition Subcommittee	April 28, 2006
10.6: Present a detailed workplan with clear timelines and budget to fulfill its mandate at the May 2006 Council meeting.	Water Conservation, Efficiency & Productivity Definition Project Team	April 28, 2006
10.7: Distribute the presentations made by Council members at this meeting to all members.	Secretariat	April 10, 2006

Attachment 3: Meeting #10 Decision Log

At this meeting, the Alberta Water Council made the following decisions:

Decision 10.1: The Alberta Water Council approved the 2006-2009 business plan, version 4.2 (March 3, 2006), with minor changes.

Decision 10.2: Council approved in principle the 2006-2007 Operational Plan, version 1.2.

Decision 10.3: Council agreed that a communications strategy should be developed, and that the Secretariat will work with the executive on this task.

Decision 10.4: Council affirmed its commitment to the timelines and transition process agreed to in November, and established a multi-stakeholder subcommittee to lead the development of options and proposals for the transition.

Decision 10.5: Council approved the terms of reference for a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Project Team, replacing the third focus area for the team with the following: "Determine appropriate methodologies for reporting progress on conservation, efficiency and productivity."

Decision 10.6: The Council approved the terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team.

Decision 10.7: The Council agreed to dissolve the Water Research Steering Committee.

Attachment 4: Meeting #10 Agenda

Alberta Water Council

Agenda, Meeting #10

March 23, 2006

Greenwood Inn, Calgary

3515 – 26th Street, NE

GENERAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL

8:30 1.0 Administration – Chair 30 min

- 2.1 Welcome and approve agenda
- 2.2 Approve Summary Report (January 18-19, 2006 meeting)
- 2.3 Review of actions from last meeting
- 2.4 Media, Communication and Outreach Activities
- 2.5 Executive Committee Report

9:00 2.0 Transition to Arm’s Length Organization 3 hrs

Mike Kelly and Donna Tingley will lead a workshop so members develop a clear understanding of what it means to be an arm’s length organization. Members will have a thorough discussion about Council makeup and funding.

12:00 Lunch (to be provided in the room) 45 min

1:00 3.0 Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity working group 45 min

Peter Watson and David Hill will review the draft terms of reference for a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Project Team.

1:45 4.0 Water Management Knowledge Broker Function working group 45 min

Linda Van Gastel will review the draft terms of reference for a Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team.

2:30 Coffee Break 15 min

2:45 5.0 Presentation: Riparian Habitat 1 hr

Lorne Fitch, Provincial Riparian Specialist, Alberta Cows and Fish program will discuss the function and value of riparian habitat, the vital green zones around lakes and wetlands, the emerald threads of vegetation that border rivers and streams, and the lush fringe in valleys.

3:45 6.0 Other Business 5 min

New items of business or other items of information for Council

3:50 7.0 Key Messages and Preparation for Next Meeting (Chair) 10 min

Confirmation of the key messages from this meeting will be requested.

4:00 Adjournment