

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #27
March 26, 2010
Calgary, Alberta

Executive Summary

The Council's 2010 annual general meeting was held immediately prior to the business meeting. Board members held a strategic planning session on March 25th to lay the groundwork for a new three-year business plan.

A highlight of this board meeting was the presentation to the Council of the first water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) sector plan. The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) has completed a CEP plan for small and large urban municipalities, and the plan was approved by the AUMA membership at the November 2009 convention with 89% support. Development of the plan was guided by input from an expert committee, a multi-stakeholder committee and a workshop on CEP initiatives. The AUMA is developing several mechanisms to help its members achieve their targets as they develop their own CEP plans, including a website at <http://water.auma.ca>.

The board heard an update from the Council's project team on sector planning for water conservation, efficiency and productivity. As necessary, the team identifies issues that need the board's attention. The team asked the board to confirm that Step 6 in the CEP framework may involve presenting a draft or approved plan to the Council. This is to ensure that sectors have flexibility in getting approval from their own members for their plans before presenting them to Council.

Alberta Environment presented an overview of the Land-use Framework (LUF) and Cumulative Effects Management System (CEMS) and the implications for water. The LUF provides an overarching blueprint for transforming the broad provincial strategic outcomes into regional outcomes on the ground, which is occurring through the regional planning process. The LUF provides the overall strategic direction and CEM is the way regional planning will be implemented.

In 2008-2009, Council staff participated in a project initiated by the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) to examine opportunities for enhanced collaboration between the Council and CASA. This report was approved by the CASA board and was presented to the AWC board at this meeting for information. As opportunities arise, staff will look for good collaborative opportunities.

Summary of Discussion

1 Administration

1.1 Welcome and Approve Agenda

Jim Ellis convened the meeting at 10:45 am. He thanked Rob Pritchard and the City of Calgary for hosting the meeting. The agenda was approved.

1.2 Summary Report from November 19, 2009 meeting

It was noted that the minutes and executive summary from the November 19, 2009 meeting should reflect that CEP targets are voluntary not mandatory. With that amendment, the summary was approved.

Decision 27.1: The amended summary report for the November 19, 2009 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

1.3 Action Items from November 19, 2009 Meeting

Gord Edwards reviewed the action items from the last meeting, as noted in the board package. All actions have been completed.

1.4 Executive Director's Report and Project Updates from GoA

Gord directed the board to his report in the briefing package. Council was advised that it received \$2-million in funding in January as a result of its grant application to the Government of Alberta. This funding is expected to cover two years plus one additional quarter of operations. Activities in 2009 came in about 5% below the planned budget. Gord also introduced the Council's two new project managers, Andre Asselin and Alesha Hill, and summarized staff activities since the last board meeting. The executive committee met on February 25, 2010 and the report contains a synopsis of that meeting.

2 Executive Committee Terms of Reference

Gord Edwards presented the proposed terms of reference for the executive committee and the background on why these were drafted. The executive committee has gradually taken on a wider array of tasks; a recent key change is a proposal to disband the communications committee and have the executive committee take over these responsibilities. Gord reviewed the anticipated key tasks, timelines, budget and deliverables for the executive committee. The terms of reference will come back to the board in June for approval.

The following points were noted in discussion with the board:

- With just five individuals involved, it has been relatively easy to re-schedule meetings if a conflict emerges. Thus it has not been necessary to identify a formal alternate for executive members.
- A key task is chairing board meetings, and this should be added to the list.

Board members were asked to forward any further comments on the draft terms of reference for the executive committee to Gord. The board will be asked to approve the terms of reference at the June meeting.

Action 27.1: The executive will consider whether alternates for executive members may be needed.

3 Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Project Team

John Skowronski briefly reviewed the team's mandate and provided an update on its work, sector progress and challenges in implementing the CEP framework. He drew the board's attention to the team's third *What We've Learned* report, which includes updates from the seven sectors. The team discussed Step 6 in the CEP framework, which is "present draft CEP sector plan to Alberta Water Council"; this step says, "Individual Alberta Water Council members will have an opportunity to forward their comments to the sector on the draft plan prior to its final adoption." The team recognizes that each sector owns its plan and may need to get approval from the sector before bringing the plan forward to the Council. The team asked the board to confirm that step 6 may involve presenting a draft or approved plan to the Council.

Decision 27.2: The board confirmed that step 6 of the CEP framework may involve presenting a draft or approved plan to the Council.

4 Sector Planning for CEP – Small and Large Urban Plan

Rachel Bocock presented the CEP plan prepared for urban municipalities. The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) led the development of this plan, starting work in the late summer of 2008. The plan was approved by the AUMA membership at the November 2009 convention with 89% support and is the first sector plan to be completed. Development of the plan was guided by input from an expert committee, a multi-stakeholder committee and a workshop on CEP initiatives. Rachel reviewed the targets and the process through which AUMA set their targets. More details are available at the AUMA's microsite at <http://water.auma.ca>.

The following points emerged in the board's discussion of this item:

- AUMA is developing a standard template to assist municipalities in developing their own CEP plans. But it's important to balance the value of having a template and having municipalities think more deeply about what they can do to conserve water. AUMA member plans will also be posted on the website as examples for others to look at.
- Work continues on defining the essential elements that need to be in a CEP plan, and determining how they will be monitored. The AUMA is also working to develop standard definitions for key terms.
- The large municipalities have ongoing programs to identify and repair leaky and aging infrastructure.
- More and more municipalities, including smaller ones, are looking at full cost accounting and are moving to metering water use, which has a positive impact on conservation.
- It would help if sector plans could identify where conserved water is for the benefit of people and where it is a benefit for the environment to ensure all saved water isn't used for intensification.
- The CEP team was very helpful in providing guidance and the AAMDC was part of the collaborative process in developing the CEP sector plan. The AUMA is

developing a guide for CEP planning that emphasizes regional cooperation and collaboration to help municipalities act on common priorities.

- The GoA is considering a review of how municipal water systems are funded and what changes might be needed.

5 Cumulative Effects Management System Presentation

Bev Yee presented an overview of the Land-use Framework (LUF) and Cumulative Effects Management System (CEMS) and the implications for water. The LUF provides an overarching blueprint for transforming the broad provincial strategic outcomes into on-the-ground outcomes, which is occurring through the regional planning process. The LUF provides the overall strategic direction and CEM is the way regional planning will be implemented. The aim is to enhance the delivery system by increasing the range of regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms, promoting regulatory excellence through effectiveness and efficiency, and strengthening flexibility and responsiveness of the tools. CEMS will be enabled through legislation, but a decision on how this will happen has not yet been made. Among other things, implications for water involve recognizing limits and managing within the capacity of watersheds and integrating across environmental media and environmental, economic and social values. WPACs will be involved in prioritizing data gaps and helping to determine how to fill them. Alberta Environment will be talking with stakeholders this year on the various elements and potential roles for partners.

The following points emerged in the board's discussion of this item:

- Knowledge and research seems to have been deferred as a priority again for the AWC. How do we ensure we have the information we need to make good decisions?
 - Many agencies are working on these issues, so the AWC needs to link with them. Identify the places where information is needed and connect with those who have it or who are getting it. At the regional level, AENV and WPACs can work to identify and fill data gaps.
- AAMDC and AUMA have responsibilities that cross many ministries and have good relationships with both the provincial and federal governments. They are well-positioned to facilitate efforts to improve delivery in some of these areas as regional plans are implemented.
- Managing water within limits of the ecosystem is tricky when many licences were issued under different circumstances and have different restrictions. How will that be dealt with?
 - AENV is looking at these issues as part of its water allocation management system review and cumulative effects management system approach.
- How does the work of Alberta's WPACs link in with regional planning happening under the Land Use Framework?
 - Watershed plans will fit within regional plans. If WPACs have work ready to go into the regional planning process, AENV will bring it to the regional planning table. But the regional plans will not wait for watershed plans to be completed. If the watershed plans are not done, AENV will draw on its own sources or those of the WPACs to take information to the table.
- How is water management integration happening across provincial and international borders?
 - At the operational level, it will be up to the GoA to ensure integration across regional boundaries. Alberta already works with other provinces and with the

federal government on transboundary issues. The key thing will be to ensure that mechanisms are consistent from one region to the next.

- In the seven Land Use Framework planning regions, could there be different targets for same resource in different regions?
 - With respect to regional thresholds, Alberta is now working in a federal-provincial process to set national air quality ambient objectives to protect human health and the environment. With a place-based approach, there could be specific pressures on an airshed to bring levels down, which might mean a cap-type approach.
- A solid rationale and justification are needed for setting action triggers and what those actions might be.
- Section 11 of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA)* appears to enable regional plans to adopt instruments to achieve place-based objectives. It may be that integrated watershed plans could be enabled in this way under ALSA. Is that the potential?
 - Yes, ALSA is a very powerful piece of legislation.

6 CASA-AWC Collaboration Report

Gord Edwards presented a brief overview of the report that was produced by CASA, looking at opportunities for CASA-AWC collaboration. The CASA board accepted the report at their December board meeting and the recommendations are being implemented; for example, Gord will be making a presentation to the CASA coordination workshop in June. Overall, the report noted that CASA and AWC staff collaborate in a number of areas and recommends continuing to look for those opportunities.

7 Status Reports

The board was directed to the one status report in the briefing book.

8 New or Other Business

There was no new or other business.

The chair noted that Mike Kelly and Ron Pearson will be stepping down from the board after this meeting. The board recognized Mike and Ron for their years of service and very active engagement with the AWC.

Rob Pritchard and the City of Calgary were again thanked for hosting the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Attachment 1: Meeting #27 Attendees

Council Directors and Alternates

Peter Aku, NGO (Fishery Habitat Conservation)
Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)
Rachel Bocoock, Government (Small Urban)
Wendy Boje, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)
Mark Brostrom, Government (Large Urban)
Eric Butterworth, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)
Bob Cameron, NGO (Environmental)
Carolyn Campbell, NGO (Environmental)
Jim Ellis, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)
Lisa Maria Fox, NGO (Environmental)
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)
Don Johnson, Government (Rural)
Les Gammie, NGO (WPACs)
Mike Kelly, Industry (Power Generation)
Stuart Lunn, Industry (Mining)
Ron McMullin, Industry (Irrigation)
Dave Middleton, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)
Ron Pearson, NGO (Fishery Habitat Conservation)
Rob Pritchard, Government (Large Urban)
Richard Quail, Government (Small Urban)
Dave Rushford, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)
John Skowronski, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)
Jamie Wuite, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Food)
Bev Yee, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)
Gord Edwards, AWC Executive Director

Presenters:

Gord Edwards, *Executive Director's Report; Executive Committee Terms of Reference, and CASA-AWC Collaboration Report* (Items 1.4, 2.0, 6.0)
John Skowronski, *Sector Planning for CEP Project Team* (Item 3)
Rachel Bocoock, *Sector Planning for CEP – Small and Large Urban Plan* (Item 4)
Bev Yee, *Cumulative Effects Management System* (Item 5)

Guests:

James Guthrie, TransAlta
Jennifer Nitschelm, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Bill Macdonald, Alberta Environment
Mike Meagher, City of Calgary
Valerie Moore, City of Calgary
Kelly Ness, Alberta Environment
Margaret Glasford, Alberta Lake Management Society

AWC Staff and Contractor Support

Andre Asselin, Alesha Hill, Terry Sly, Lorie Wagner, Kim Sanderson

Absent with Regrets:

Inier Cardinal, Government (Métis Settlements)
David Hill, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Water Research Institute)
Colin Jeffares, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development)
Al Kennedy, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
Alex MacKenzie, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)
Dug Major, NGO (WPACs)
Eric McGhan, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)

Larry Nolan, Industry (Livestock)
 Dwight Oliver, Government (Rural)
 Jennifer Steber, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)
 Lindsay Telfer, NGO (Environmental)
 Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)

Attachment 2: Meeting #27 Action Item Log

Action	Who	By when
Action 27.1: The executive will consider whether alternates for executive members may be needed.	Executive Committee	May 27

Attachment 3: Decision Log

Decision 27.1: The amended summary report for the November 19, 2009 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

Decision 27.2: The board confirmed that step 6 of the CEP framework may involve presenting a draft or approved plan to the Council.

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL
AGENDA, MEETING #27
March 26, 2010
McDougall Centre, Calgary

GENERAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL

- 10:45 1.0 Administration – Chair 15 min**
- 1.1 Welcome and approve agenda
 - 1.2 Approve Summary Report from November 19, 2009 meeting
 - 1.3 Review of actions from last meeting
 - 1.4 Executive Director’s report
- 11:00 2.0 Executive Committee Terms of Reference 15 min**
Review draft Executive Committee Terms of Reference
- 11:15 3.0 Sector Planning for CEP Project Team 15 min**
Hear a presentation on the team’s findings in its “What We’ve Learned” report.
- 11:30 4.0 Sector Planning for CEP – Small and Large Urban Plan 30 min**
Hear a presentation on the CEP plan prepared by the small and large urban sectors.
- 12:00 Lunch (provided in the room) 60 min**
- 1:00 5.0 Cumulative Effects Management System Presentation 45min**
Hear a presentation on Cumulative Effects Management System
- 1:45 6.0 CASA-AWC Collaboration Report 15 min**
Hear a presentation from staff on this CASA initiative
- 2:00 7.0 Status Reports 15 min**
Refer members to status reports in the board package with brief opportunity for questions or clarification.
- 2:15 8.0 New or Other Business 15 min**
New items of business or other items of information for Council
- 2:30 Adjournment**