

## ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

---

MEETING #16

**June 14, 2007**

**Calgary, Alberta**

### **Executive Summary**

Council was advised by Grand Chief Arthur Noskey that the membership of Lisa King, the First Nations representative for Treaty 8 on the Alberta Water Council, has been rescinded. Members agreed to send a letter to Lisa recognizing her contribution to the Council. The new executive member from the Government broad category will be Richard Quail.

Robert Seidel, Q.C., is advising the Council on various aspects of the transition to a not-for-profit organization. He presented an overview of the duties and responsibilities of directors following the transition, and also noted a number of governance items that the Council should address to ensure a smooth transition and start-up.

Council approved the terms of reference for the Intra-Basin Water Movement Project Team, with the addition of two representatives, one from the lake environment conservation and one from the power generation sector. This team was formed in response to a request from Minister Renner. Stakeholder engagement will occur during the summer and the team plans to report back to Council in the fall.

The Water Strategy Renewal Project Team provided an update on the team's work to date and plans for sector engagement. Council recognized the challenging timelines and the amount of work to be done, and consequently amended the team's terms of reference and scope of consultation to ensure that a final report and recommendations can be completed by November 2007. A special Council workshop will be held in October to discuss the draft recommendations.

The Water Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team presented a summary of its findings, noting the priorities that emerged from the team's process. Council provided feedback and directed the team to complete its final report taking these comments into account. This team expects to submit its final report at the September meeting.

The Council accepted the final report of the Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team and agreed to disband this team, noting that it may be appropriate to revisit the knowledge broker function in the future.

The Council congratulated Al Maurer and the City of Edmonton, and Frank Vagi and Petro-Canada for winning a 2007 Emerald Award in the large business category for their joint wastewater recycling project. Jay White was also congratulated for his work with the Lac La Biche Watershed Steering Committee and Lakeland County, whose project won a Canadian Environment Silver Award in the environmental health category.

## Summary of Discussion

David Hill convened the meeting at 9:10 am. He introduced Tim Goos, representing Environment Canada, and Danielle Cobbaert, the alternate for the Alberta Lake Management Society. Others present introduced themselves.

### 1 Administration

#### 1.1 Review of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

#### 1.2 Approval of Summary Report from March 27, 2007 Meeting

The summary report was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

#### 1.3 Action Items from March 27, 2007 Meeting

Terry Sly reviewed the action items from the last meeting, as distributed in the briefing package. All items have been completed or are in progress.

#### 1.4 Executive Committee Report

David Hill directed members to the notes from the executive committee meeting held on May 18. The executive approved a new template for project teams to use in developing terms of reference, with the aim of streamlining the process and focusing more on strategic intent rather than details.

David advised that Lisa King's membership on the Council has been rescinded by the Grand Chief of Treaty 8, and shared the letter from Chief Arthur Noskey. Terry Sly advised that Peter Watson and Minister Renner have indicated a willingness to continue working at a government-to-government level to facilitate the participation of First Nations in the Council's work and in other multi-stakeholder processes. Options and possibilities are being explored to achieve this goal. Each of Treaty 6, 7 and 8 was invited to send an observer to this meeting, and the executive will continue efforts to fill the three First Nations seats after the transition.

Members expressed their regret at losing Lisa from the Council. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Lisa over David Hill's signature as a member of the executive, thanking her for her contribution and acknowledging her strong advocacy role for First Nations, with a copy to Chief Archie Cyprien, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and to the Grand Chiefs of Treaty 6, 7 and 8, all of whom were copied on Chief Noskey's letter to Council.

Where Council has made commitments to Aboriginal consultations, these will continue to be honoured.

The "Government" broad category advised that it had selected Richard Quail to replace Lisa King as their executive member.

**Action 16.1: Terry Sly will work with David Hill to prepare a letter to Lisa King.**

## 2 Transition to an Independent Organization

Robert Seidel, Q.C., has been retained as legal counsel to advise on various aspects of the transition to an independent organization. He presented an overview of the duties and responsibilities of directors following the transition. The following points were noted in the discussion between Mr. Seidel and Council members:

- Some attention will be needed to the relationship between directors [the individuals] and the organization each represents [the members], and their duties to the Council. Directors are required to act in the best interest of the board they sit on [in this case, the Alberta Water Council], but part of the success of the Council will be its ability to provide advice that reflects input from and meets the needs of each of its member organizations. The challenge is to clearly define the process at the beginning and ensure there is a shared understanding.
- Each member organization of the new Council is likely to have different expectations and requirements of its representatives [director and alternate] in terms of communication and liaison, and directors and alternates must understand these expectations. The executive director and secretariat staff can assist to ensure consistent messaging back to all sectors, but the ability to communicate effectively with members and their sectors is an expectation that Council members should have of their director and alternate.
- There will likely be issues of confidentiality from time to time while teams and committees discuss their issues but, as much as possible, this work should be open and transparent.

Council briefly reviewed the member categories that were discussed and approved in November 2006. The process for choosing the member varies somewhat, depending on, for example, if there is an umbrella organization for a particular sector. The bylaws describe the process for adding new members; following the inaugural meeting, the board will approve new members. Current members were asked to forward any remaining questions or concerns regarding the transition to Terry Sly by the end of June and these will be addressed by the executive.

**Action 16.2: Terry Sly will email to members a) the information regarding membership that was agreed to at the September and November 2006 meetings, b) a pdf of the MS Powerpoint presentation by Mr. Seidel, and c) a reminder to forward any remaining questions on the transition for consideration by the executive.**

## 3 Intra-Basin Water Movement

Al Kennedy presented the draft terms of reference for the Intra-Basin Water Movement project team, noting that the team found the new template useful, convenient and easy to use. This work is being done in response to a request from Minister Renner. The team is focusing on the Minister's request and is undertaking stakeholder engagement (not broad public consultation) to help them develop their advice. One challenge is to manage scale and scope of the review. The team will look at examples of current practices and the current decision-making process, and expects that existing legislative aspects of water management (such as first in time, first in right) will not change. They have met with some stakeholders in the Red Deer River basin and will be getting input from others through meetings and a website where anyone can provide comments. The team realizes that it may not be able to address all the issues raised, but intends to identify areas that require policy instruments and note the problems that should be dealt with. It would then be up to government to respond. The

budget is tentative, but the team was assured that the GOA would make funds available to complete this work.

Two sectors indicated an interest in adding a member to the team (power generation and NGO), recognizing the steep learning curve as the team has already begun its work.

*Decision 16.1: Council approved the terms of reference for the Intra-Basin Water Movement Project Team, with the addition of two representatives, one from the lake environment conservation sector and one from the power generation sector.*

#### **4 Water Strategy Renewal Project Team**

Kirk Popik and Mark Bennett provided an update on the work to date of the Water Strategy Renewal Project Team and the schedule for completion of the renewal. They introduced consultants from MPA Public and Government Affairs, who have been contracted to assist the team. The official launch of the renewal project is planned for June 27. A workbook tool is being finalized to help Council members engage their sector, and the workbook will also be available online where anyone can provide feedback.

Council members were reminded of their previous commitment to consult with their sectors on this project. The first broad engagement with sectors will be followed by multi-sector workshops in the fall, with the aim of having draft recommendations by late fall and a final report by early 2008.

The team reported that it expects that the online input will be compiled by the consultants and would go to the appropriate Council member. As much as possible, Council members will be expected to participate in the consultation with their sectors and to consolidate the feedback for master compilation by the consultant. It will be important to obtain feedback from every sector. The team recognized the challenging timelines, but feels it is important to provide timely advice to the minister by early 2008.

Council members discussed the proposed plan and the following comments were noted:

- Some sectors will face major challenges in consulting and providing input over the summer, and are concerned that the timelines are not realistic. There is a fall municipal election, rural communities are very busy in the summer, and many people are on vacation at this time of year.
- Many sectors do not have the resources to do the consultation and compile responses.
- There is a great deal of other consultation underway now and over the next few months (including fall consultations by the Council's Wetland Policy Team), and Council needs to consider all these demands.
- This process may be more complicated than it needs to be, given that the renewal is not intended to reinvent *Water for Life*. The renewal will build on work already done, and the Council wants to hear especially from people who feel that improvements are needed to the current strategy. The Council's review report can provide a starting point for the renewal.
- Although the timelines are tight, there are a number of benefits to completing the renewal in the timeframe requested by the minister. If more resources are needed to meet this timeline, Council should consider how those needs can be met.

*Decision 16.2: Council agreed to amend the terms of reference for the Water for Life Strategy Renewal Project Team to reflect the following activities and timelines:*

- *The multi-sector forums originally planned for September will be removed from the process.*
- *The online survey will be used to engage Council sectors, at the level members deem appropriate, between July 1 and August 24. The key role for Council members will be to market the use of the survey to engage their sectors and encourage their input by August 24.*
- *The consultants will compile the survey results into a feedback report by September 13 and the team will present an overview of the feedback report and initial recommendations to Council at the September 18 meeting.*
- *Council will hold a workshop in October to discuss the recommendations and give guidance to the team in completing its report.*
- *The final report and recommendations for renewal of Water for Life will be presented to Council at its November 2007 meeting.*

These changes will likely require adjustments to the budget as well, and this will be discussed with Alberta Environment if needed. Council reiterated its support for the Steering Committee to approve the workbook before it is circulated for use by members. The workshop to discuss draft recommendations will be held on the morning of October 17.

**Action 16.3: The secretariat will arrange a Council workshop for the morning of October 17 and advise members of the details.**

## **5 Water Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team**

Judy Stewart presented a summary of the work of the project team, with reference to the detailed project overview provided to members in their briefing book. She reviewed the prioritization process undertaken by the team and the input from the subject matter experts. Four priorities were identified initially, two of which were considered to have a high impact and at least a medium probability of success in the short to medium term; these were: 1) integrated water management planning and 2) reliable, quality water supply for a sustainable economy. The other two priorities were also ranked as having a medium to high impact but would take longer to accomplish. Judy described examples of recommended approaches to address the priority issues and noted that the team will present its final report at the September Council meeting.

Council members discussed the priorities, noting that some points require further clarification and comment by the team in its final report; these include:

- the idea that each person is entitled to a certain amount of water for basic necessities of life,
- urban and rural development issues,
- what is meant by water pricing,
- the relationship between water management planning and watershed management planning,
- the relationship between water management and good urban planning, as water is only one component of a regional growth strategy.

- how the team determined its priorities (The impact and probability of success appeared to be based on legal considerations rather than social or environmental considerations).

Members suggested that the final report should include a discussion of all four priority areas, including a legal framework for water conservation and management to support aquatic ecosystem protection, as well as an explanation of the process and criteria. Council members indicated they would discuss the final report at the September meeting and determine a path forward at that time.

*Decision 16.3: Council directed the Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team to complete its final report, taking into account the comments provided at this meeting.*

## **6 Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team**

John Donner reviewed the tasks and process of the now-suspended Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team, noting that the team engaged in some very good dialogue and had some good ideas as to roles and opportunities for a knowledge broker. The team appeared before Council several times, but felt that they were never able to secure the buy-in they needed to move ahead. This was due to a number of factors, such as not having exactly the right people on the team and the structure of the original terms of reference. He directed Council to the “lessons learned” in the team’s final report.

Council members noted that there is still interest in this area and that it might be appropriate to revisit the knowledge broker function in future when roles and activities being undertaken by others are further advanced. There could be opportunities to consider how to position this work when the Council’s operational plan is updated.

*Decision 16.4: Council agreed to accept the Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team’s final report and to disband the team.*

## **7 Status Reports**

Members were directed to the status reports provided in the briefing book. This will be a standing agenda item for the Council.

## **8 New Business**

The Council congratulated Al Maurer and the City of Edmonton, and Frank Vagi and Petro-Canada for winning a 2007 Emerald Award in the large business category for their joint wastewater recycling project. Jay White was also congratulated for his work with the Lac La Biche Watershed Steering Committee and Lakeland County, whose project won a Canadian Environment Silver Award in the environmental health category.

Al Maurer advised that he and Rob Pritchard, currently the alternate for the large urban sector and representing the City of Calgary, will be trading positions. Rob will become the member for the large urban sector and Al will be the alternate. Frank Vagi also advised that he is stepping down as the alternate for WPACs.

**9 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be September 18 in Edmonton.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

## **Attachment 1: Meeting #16 Attendees**

### **Council Members and Alternates:**

Bill Berzins, NGO (WPACs)  
Danielle Cobbaert, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)  
John Donner, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Food)  
Danielle Droitsch, NGO (Environmental)  
Susanne Forbrich, Government (Environment Canada)  
Tim Goos, Government (Environment Canada)  
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)  
Brian Hammond, Government (Rural)  
David Hill, Industry (Irrigation)  
Al Kennedy, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)  
Tim LeClair, Government (Métis Settlements General Council)  
Al Maurer, Government (Large Urban)  
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)  
Larry Nolan, Industry (Livestock)  
Ron Pearson, NGO (Fishery Habitat Conservation)

Brad Pickering, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)  
Rob Pritchard, Government (Large Urban)  
Richard Quail, Government (Small Urban)  
Sharla Rauschnig, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)  
Dave Rushford, Industry (Oil and Gas)  
Judy Smith, Industry (Mining)  
Kevin Stashin, Industry (Oil and Gas)  
Kim Sturgess, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Economic Development Authority)  
Jonathan Thompson, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)  
Frank Vagi, NGO (WPACs)  
Linda Van Gastel, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Science and Research Authority)  
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)

### **Non-Council Presenters:**

Robert Seidel, Q.C.; Davis LLP  
Judy Stewart, Chair, Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team  
Mark Bennett and Kirk Popik, Members, *Water for Life* Renewal Project Team

### **Guests:**

John Englert, Alberta Environment  
Robert Harrison, Alberta Environment  
Scott Millar, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Ted Nason, Alberta SRD

Carrie Selin, Intensive Livestock Working Group  
Carol Thurston, Alberta Environment  
Jamie Wuite, Alberta Agriculture and Food

### **Secretariat:**

Cam Lane	Andy Ridge	Terry Sly
Karen McCallion	Kim Sanderson	Lorie Wagner

### **Absent with Regrets:**

Gerald Cunningham, Government (Métis Settlements General Council)  
Mike Kelly, Industry (Power Generation)  
Alex MacKenzie, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)  
Joe Miller, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)  
Peter Watson, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)  
Beverly Yee, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)

**Attachment 2: Meeting #16 Action Item Log**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By when</b>
Action 16.1: Terry Sly will work with David Hill to prepare a letter to Lisa King.	Terry Sly, David Hill	June 29
Action 16.2: Terry Sly will email to members a) the information regarding membership that was agreed to at the September and November 2006 meetings, b) a pdf of the MS Powerpoint presentation by Mr. Seidel, and c) a reminder to forward any remaining questions on the transition for consideration by the executive.	Terry Sly	June 29
Action 16.3: The secretariat will arrange a Council workshop for the morning of October 17 and advise members of the details.	Secretariat	July 15

**Attachment 3: Meeting #16 Decision Log**

*Decision 16.1: Council approved the terms of reference for the Intra-Basin Water Movement Project Team, with the addition of two representatives, one from the lake environment conservation sector and one from the power generation sector.*

*Decision 16.2: Council agreed to amend the terms of reference for the Water for Life Strategy Renewal Project Team to reflect the following activities and timelines:*

- *The multi-sector forums originally planned for September will be removed from the process.*
- *The online survey will be used to engage Council sectors, at the level members deem appropriate, between July 1 and August 24. The key role for Council members will be to market the use of the survey to engage their sectors and encourage their input by August 24.*
- *The consultants will compile the survey results into a feedback report by September 13 and the team will present an overview of the feedback report and initial recommendations to Council at the September 18 meeting.*
- *Council will hold a workshop in October to discuss the recommendations and give guidance to the team in completing its report.*
- *The final report and recommendations for renewal of Water for Life will be presented to Council at its November 2007 meeting.*

*Decision 16.3: Council directed the Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team to complete its final report, taking into account the comments provided at this meeting.*

*Decision 16.4: Council agreed to accept the Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team's final report and to disband the team.*

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL  
AGENDA, MEETING #16

---

**June 14, 2007**

**McDougall Centre, Calgary, Alberta**  
455 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW

---

**GENERAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL**

**9:10 1.0 Administration – Chair 35 min**

- 1.1 Welcome, introduction of new members, general introductions
- 1.2 Approve agenda
- 1.3 Approve Summary Report from March 27, 2007 meeting
- 1.4 Review of actions from last meeting
- 1.5 Executive Committee Report

**9:45 2.0 Transition to Independent Organization 60 min**

Presentation and discussion on board responsibilities following transition to an independent organization (Rob Seidel, legal counsel)

**10:45 Break 15 min**

**11:00 3.0 Intra-Basin Water Movement 60 min**

Approve draft terms of reference for Intra-Basin Water Movement project team

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

**12:45 4.0 Water Strategy Renewal Project Team 60 min**

Provide members with a description of the engagement process they will be hosting.

**1:15 5.0 Water Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team 45 min**

Approve the findings so the team can complete its final report.

**2:30 Break 15 min**

**2:45 6.0 Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team 30 min**

Presentation by team on lessons learned. The team, which has suspended its work pending the outcome of work being done in this area by other agencies, encountered a number of challenges, some of which were process-related.

**3:15 7.0 Status Reports 15 min**

Refer members to status reports in the board package with brief opportunity for questions or clarification.

**3:30 9.0 New or Other Business 15 min**

New items of business or other items of information for Council

**3:45 Adjournment**

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