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# ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

## MEETING #7

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**September 20, 2005**  
**Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton, Alberta**

### **Summary Report**

*The Water Council's business meeting was preceded by a strategic planning session, which is not documented as part of this summary report for meeting 7.*

#### **Key Points:**

- Alberta Water Council members began the process of developing a three-year business plan, and will continue this work at their next meeting.
- Members approved two key reports: (1) Their review report and recommendations on the first year of progress by the Alberta Government in implementing the Water for Life strategy, plus a release plan for the report; and (2) Council's first annual report.
- Council discussed the challenges related to its work on water conservation, efficiency and productivity, and directed the Water Use Efficiency and Productivity Working Group to (a) refine its definitions of conservation, efficiency and productivity; (b) begin to assemble baseline knowledge of water use within various sectors; and (c) review the membership of the working group to ensure it reflects the diversity of Council; and report back to Council at its next meeting.
- Council approved the Wetland Policy Project Team's proposed consultation plan and timelines for completion of its work, and asked the team to keep Council apprised of its progress.
- Members received a presentation on the draft water research strategy and next steps in the process for finalizing the strategy.

#### **Attachments to the Meeting Summary:**

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

## Summary of Discussion

### 1. Administration

Peter Watson convened the business meeting at 1:10 pm, following the completion of the strategic planning session. He welcomed Mary Griffiths, who was sitting in for Margaret Reine, and Bob Willard who was filling in for Joe Miller.

#### a) Review of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as distributed.

#### b) Approval of Summary Report from June 23, 2005 Meeting

The summary report from the June 23, 2005 meeting was adopted by consensus.

#### c) Action Items from June 23, 2005 Meeting

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

#### d) Media, Communications and Outreach Activities

Terry Sly provided a short summary of recent activities.

- The spring 2005 issue of *Alberta Oil* featured an article entitled “Water, Water, Everywhere but not a Drop to Spare,” focused on recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Water Use Practice and Policy to protect Alberta’s water. The Alberta Water Council was recognized and both Kevin Stashin and Judy Smith were quoted on their industry’s use of water.
- Terry made a presentation on the work of the Alberta Water Council to the North East Alberta Water Management Coalition. Both Terry and Bob Barss answered questions about the Council, WPACs and the value of the Coalition.
- Terry made a presentation on the work of the Alberta Water Council to the City of Edmonton Environmental Advisory Committee. Both Terry and Al Maurer answered questions about the work of Council.
- Lisa King, Gerald Cunningham and Terry Sly are planning a presentation to Aboriginal communities in the Lesser Slave Lake basin in October on the work of Council and creating a WPAC.

#### e) Correspondence Received

- The Council has received an invitation from Donna Tingley, executive director of CASA, for AWC members who are interested to attend meetings of the CASA board or project teams. If members would like to accept this invitation, they should advise Donna. Several AWC members are also on the CASA board.

#### f) Meeting Dates for 2006

Members decided to continue meeting five times a year for 2006, and confirmed the following meeting dates, with field trips planned for May and September: January 19, March 23, May 17-18, September 13-14, and November 16.

## **2. Council's Reporting Responsibilities**

### **a) Review Report**

Ron Pearson advised that the Government's report on implementation progress of the Water for Life strategy is in the final editing stages and is expected to be released in early October. The Council's review report of implementation progress is being professionally designed and printed with a somewhat similar look to the annual report. Ron distributed sample copies of the design, noting that the three cover photos are intended to portray the three outcomes of the WFL strategy. Ron asked for any final comments on the review report and also requested that members formally approve the recommendations it contains. The following changes to the recommendations were proposed and agreed to by Council:

- Line 595 ff, paragraph on Knowledge and Research: Break this paragraph into two sub-bullets, one on public education with a bit of additional text, and one on ASRA. The open bullets will stay with the ASRA text.
- Lines 617 and 619: Delete text in parentheses.

Where necessary, the executive summary will also be revised to reflect these changes.

### **Decision 7.1: Council formally approved the review report and the recommendations it contains, with the amendments noted in the meeting summary.**

The plan is to release the review report at the same time as the Government's report, likely early October. AENV will issue a news release with key messages and comments by the minister. The communications plan proposes that Ron Pearson will be the primary spokesperson for AWC, but members can respond to media in their communities as appropriate. Efforts will be made to generate some media interest in these two reports. Members agreed that general inquiries should be directed to Ron and specific questions should go to the appropriate sector(s). The final release date will depend on the minister's availability to comment on the Government's report. Hard copies will be sent to members, who will be notified as soon as it is publicly available so they can distribute copies to their stakeholders. The report will also be posted on the Council website. The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association conference is in early October and would be a good opportunity to raise the Council's profile. However, it may not be possible to have the implementation and review reports ready by then.

### **Decision 7.2: Council approved the release plan for the review report.**

### **b) Annual Report**

Ron Pearson reviewed the status of the annual report and asked members to approve it for production, with minor changes to some photo credits. The annual report will go to press shortly and will be publicly released a week or two after the review report (mid to late October). Hard copies will be sent to members, who will be notified as soon as it is publicly available so they can distribute copies to their stakeholders. The report will also be posted on the Council website. Members indicated an interest in having a formal letterhead available for transmitting these documents, even though the Council does not yet have a logo.

### **Decision 7.3: Members approved the final content and production plan for the annual report, as well as the release plan.**

**Action 7.1: Terry Sly will notify members as soon as the review report and the annual report are released so members can distribute copies to their sector.**

**Action 7.2: Terry Sly will arrange the design of letterhead for Council use in transmitting the two reports.**

### **3. Water Efficiency and Productivity Working Group**

David Hill, chair of the Water Efficiency and Productivity Working Group, reviewed the work done to date by the group. The original focus of the group related to the 30% proposed target for improvement by 2015. Members have had wide ranging discussions on the need for information, tools, and other pieces to help them develop a plan and determine priorities. The team has begun to collect information and agreed it would assess the use and merit of economic instruments, among other things. They also wanted to ensure they had a good understanding of where Alberta is, compared to water practices in the rest of the world. As well, members wanted to make sure that issues are being similarly and consistently addressed across the basins. The group has not had as much involvement from environmental non-government organizations as it would have liked, but is conscious that the AWC has agreed that it would not make any decisions that prejudiced any particular sector.

The AWC's Environmental Non-Government Organization's representative has recently forwarded concerns from her stakeholders about the balance and composition of the working group, and other issues related to water conservation, in particular that relate to the proposed terms of reference. The concern expressed was that the proposed terms of reference might not reflect the full scope of the word "conservation" as they understand it. While many of the issues raised have been discussed by the working group, David proposed that the terms of reference not be approved until (a) the working group has secured broader representation from this sector in particular, and (b) there is more substantial discussion on the group and among Council members about how the terms conservation, efficiency and productivity are to be defined and used. Definitions in the *Water Act* and elsewhere may be useful starting points.

Members discussed this item in some detail, noting the following points:

- The "conservation target" is an important issue and it needs more consideration by the Council as a whole.
- The issues and challenges will be different in each watershed and some may need more aggressive action. Perhaps discussion about the 30% target should be deferred until some of the other things have been addressed.
- We need to take into account the progress that has already been made. Some gains have been made in water use efficiency and productivity and those must be captured.
- We want sectors to start building their capacity to improve and get people ready to consider the go forward plans and tradeoffs that may be needed. The process will be as important as the final result.
- The "Value of Water" study is important and directly relevant, and the Council needs to hear about this work. A presentation may be possible at the next meeting. Others, including the CCME and Environment Canada, are working in related areas too.
- The working group needs to identify the "bite-sized" pieces of this work and how it can be approached to ensure that Council is fulfilling the tasks it has been given.

**Decision 7.4: Members agreed not to approve the terms of reference for a Water Efficiency and Productivity Project Team at this meeting and directed the Working Group to:**

- **Review the membership of the working group to ensure it reflects the diversity of Council, with particular attention to the environmental non-government sector;**
- **Refine its definitions of conservation, efficiency and productivity;**
- **Begin to assemble baseline knowledge of water use within various sectors; and**
- **Report back to Council at its next meeting.**

#### **4. Wetland Policy Development**

Jonathan Thompson reviewed the wetland policy update distributed in the pre-meeting package and also directed members to the proposed consultation plans for this project. The team has produced a resource manual on wetlands and wetland conservation in Alberta, which will help facilitate discussion and show how much information is already available. The team is asking Council to confirm the extension for its work to December 2006, noting that this is an ambitious timeframe. The following comments were made in discussion of this item:

- Council does not need to get into the detail of the consultation plans; members can expect the team to discharge its terms of reference and report back as the work proceeds. If more time is needed, the deadline can be extended.
- More consultation should be done with industries that are directly affected by wetlands policy and management.
  - Response: The focus of the team's next meeting will be to identify core stakeholders who should be consulted (that is, those who would be most affected by wetland policy) and ensure there is a good cross section at the meetings. If any groups or specific individuals want to talk to the team about their issues, a meeting could possibly be arranged. However, the team wants to include as many of these interests as possible in the focus groups and AWC members should advise the team as soon as possible if they have specific groups in mind.
- The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers requested that the oil and gas sector be represented on the project team.

**Decision 7.5: Council amended the terms of reference for the Wetland Policy Project Team to a) add the oil and gas sector to the membership list and b) revise the timeline.**

**Decision 7.6: Council approved the proposed consultation plan for the Wetland Policy Project Team.**

#### **5. Water Research Strategy**

Linda Van Gastel presented a progress update on the provincial water research strategy, and distributed copies of the draft strategy for discussion. She referred to the consultation report that was done as part of the draft strategy preparation. Linda asked members to provide their comments by September 30<sup>th</sup>, with the goal of having a final draft strategy for approval at the November Council meeting.

**Action 7.3: Terry Sly will provide the consultation report and the draft water research strategy in electronic format for distribution to members.**

## 6. Key Messages and Preparation for the Next Meeting

The following key points were proposed and accepted:

- Alberta Water Council members began the process of developing a three-year business plan, and will continue this work at their next meeting.
- Members approved two key reports: (1) Their review report and recommendations on the first year of progress by the Alberta Government in implementing the Water for Life strategy, plus a release plan for the report; and (2) Council's first annual report.
- Council discussed the challenges related to its work on water conservation, efficiency and productivity, and directed the Water Use Efficiency and Productivity Working Group to (a) refine its definitions of conservation, efficiency and productivity; (b) begin to assemble baseline knowledge of water use within various sectors; and (c) review the membership of the working group to ensure it reflects the diversity of Council; and report back to Council at its next meeting.
- Council approved the Wetland Policy Project Team's proposed consultation plan and timelines for completion of its work, and asked the team to keep Council apprised of its progress.
- Members received a presentation on the draft water research strategy and next steps in the process for finalizing the strategy.

The next meeting will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Calgary. The chair reminded members to complete the evaluation form and return it to Terry Sly.

**Action 7.4: Terry Sly will email the evaluation form to members with a request to complete it electronically and return, if they did not complete the paper form.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

## **Attachment 1: Meeting #7 Attendees**

### **Council Members:**

Bill Berzins, Non-government Organization (Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils)  
Gerald Cunningham, Government (Metis Settlements General Council)  
John Donner, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development)  
David Hill, Industry (Irrigation)  
Mike Kelly, Industry (Power Generation)  
Al Kennedy, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)  
Al Maurer, Government (Large Urban)  
Larry Nolan, Industry (Livestock)  
Ron Pearson, Non-government Organization (Fishery Habitat Conservation)  
Brad Pickering, Province (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)  
Richard Quail, Government (Small Urban)  
Kevin Stashin, Industry (Oil and Gas)  
Jonathan Thompson, Non-government Organization (Wetland Habitat Conservation)  
Linda Van Gastel, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Science and Research Authority)  
Peter Watson, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)  
Jay White, Non-government Organization (Lake Environment Conservation)

### **Observers:**

Mary Griffiths, Pembina Institute (for Margaret Reine)  
Cam Lane, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Bob Willard, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (for Joe Miller)

### **Support Staff:**

Kate Rich                      Terry Sly  
Ian Rudland                    Kim Sanderson

### **Absent with Regrets:**

Bob Barss, Government (Rural)  
Nick Bayliss, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)  
Rick Denton, Industry (Forestry)  
Lisa King, Government (First Nations)  
Joe Miller, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)  
Margaret Reine, Non-government Organization (Environmental)  
Judy Smith, Industry (Mining)  
Jim Vollmershausen, Government (Environment Canada)

**Attachment 2: Meeting #7 Action Item Log**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By when</b>
7.1: Notify members as soon as the review report and the annual report are released so members can distribute copies to their sector.	Terry Sly	When reports are released
7.2: Arrange the design of letterhead for Council use in transmitting the two reports.	Terry Sly	October 3, 2005
7.3: Provide the consultation report and the draft water research strategy in electronic format for distribution to members.	Terry Sly	Sept. 23, 2005
7.4: Email the evaluation form to members with a request to complete it electronically and return, if they did not complete the paper form.	Terry Sly	Sept. 23, 2005

**Attachment 3: Meeting #7 Decision Log**

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

Decision 7.1: Council formally approved the review report and the recommendations it contains, with the amendments noted in the meeting summary.

Decision 7.2: Council approved the release plan for the review report.

Decision 7.3: Members approved the final content and production plan for the annual report, as well as the release plan.

Decision 7.4: Members agreed not to approve the terms of reference for a Water Efficiency and Productivity Project Team at this meeting and directed the Working Group to:

- Review the membership of the working group to ensure it reflects the diversity of Council, with particular attention to the environmental non-government sector;
- Refine its definitions of conservation, efficiency and productivity;
- Begin to assemble baseline knowledge of water use within various sectors; and
- Report back to Council at its next meeting.

Decision 7.5: Council amended the terms of reference for the Wetland Policy Project Team to a) add the oil and gas sector to the membership list and b) revise the timeline.

Decision 7.6: Council approved the proposed consultation plan for the Wetland Policy Project Team.

**Attachment 4: Meeting #7 Agenda**

**Alberta Water Council**

Agenda, Meeting #7  
September 20, 2005  
The Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton South  
4440 – Gateway Blvd.

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The Alberta Water Council held a strategic planning workshop on the afternoon of September 19 and the morning of September 20, followed by a half-day business meeting. The strategic planning activities are not part of this meeting summary.

- 12:45 1. Administration – Chair 30 min**
- a) Review of current agenda
  - b) Approval of Summary Report (June 23, 2004 meeting)
  - c) Review of actions from last meeting
  - d) Media, Communication and Outreach Activities
  - e) Correspondence received
  - f) Confirm meeting dates for 2006
- 1:15 2. Council’s Reporting Responsibilities 1 hr**
- Ron Pearson will present the following for Council approval:
- a) Final draft of review report and key messages for public release
  - b) Final draft of AWC annual report, with plan for signoff and release
- 2:15 Coffee Break 15 min**
- 2:30 3. Water Efficiency and Productivity Working Group 45 min**
- David Hill will present the draft terms of reference for a Water Efficiency and Productivity Project Team for Council discussion and approval.
- 3:15 4. Wetland Policy Development 30 min**
- Jonathan Thompson will provide an update on activities, including a review of the consultation plan for Council feedback and approval.
- 3:45 5. Water Research Strategy 10 min**
- Linda Van Gastel will provide an update on the development of the water research strategy, which will include the circulation of a draft strategy at the meeting.
- 3:55 6. Other Business 5 min**
- New items of business or other items of information for Council
- 4:00 7. Key Messages and Preparation for Next Meeting (Chair) 10 min**
- Confirmation of the key messages from this meeting will be requested. The chair will confirm the next meeting and ensure that any actions required for the next meeting are assigned.
- 4:10 Adjournment**
-