

# ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

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MEETING #66

**June 13, 2024**

**Remote – MS Teams Conference**

## **Executive Summary**

The board received an information presentation from Dr. John Pomeroy, the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change at the University of Saskatchewan and a director of the Global Water Futures Programme, on his work on predicting future mountain water supply in Alberta. This presentation was recorded and will be shared through the AWC's social media accounts.

An update was provided on the Drought Mutual Support Committee, and a presentation on drought conditions was provided by Engagement Specialist Lauren Welsh from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA). The board heard that drought conditions in southern Alberta are beginning to improve, but northern Alberta is still under stress. Board members were also given an opportunity to share updates, experiences, or information regarding their sector's drought mitigation efforts.

The Council has capacity to take on new work, and the board discussed several potential projects that arose from previous projects or from discussions at past board meetings. Water availability was raised as an important area, and the board established a working group to explore barriers and opportunities for improving water availability for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses while considering the health of aquatic ecosystems.

The consultant for the Source Water Protection Phase I: Risk Assessment Tools and Data Project Team, Greenland International Consulting, presented on their recent progress in developing the web tool and provided information on the project's upcoming workshops.

The *Water for Life* Action Plan Project Team provided a status update and requested a change to the project's Terms of Reference to both include alternative deliverables and extend the project timeline to October 2024. The proposed amendments were approved, and the project team will provide an internal "lessons learned" document and public memo on the project at the next board meeting.

Assistant Deputy Minister Kate Rich and Executive Director Jaelyn Schmidt of EPA presented on planned work to improve water use measurement and reporting in the province. The presentation included an overview of the reasons for increased reporting and noted that public consultation is expected to begin over the summer.

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2024, at the QEII Building in Edmonton.

## Summary of Discussion

Board meeting convened at 10:11 a.m.

### 1 Convene business meeting, introductions, and approve agenda

Members were welcomed and the meeting was confirmed to have quorum. Jay White chaired the meeting and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was adopted with consensus.

#### Discussion:

- There was a request to add a presentation on water measurement and reporting to the GoA update, item 8.2.

*Decision 66.1: The board approved the agenda by consensus with the above noted amendment.*

### 2 Presentation on Predictions of Future Mountain Water Supply in Alberta

Dr. John Pomeroy is a director of the Global Water Futures Programme, the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change at the University of Saskatchewan, UNESCO Chair in Mountain Water Sustainability, Distinguished Professor of Geography, Director of the Centre for Hydrology, and Director of the Coldwater Laboratory in Canmore. He provided a presentation to the board on his work predicting the future mountain water supply in Alberta.

The presentation was recorded and will be posted on the Council's YouTube Channel and SharePoint page following the meeting.

The presentation included:

- Information on the Global Water Futures program, including its goals and mission.
- A summary of predicted climate conditions in the late 21<sup>st</sup> century and their impacts on water in Western Canada.
- Information on the Global Water Futures Observatories program, which aims to be Canada's freshwater early warning system, and the program's benefits for Canadians.
- Results of modelling for the Saskatchewan River Basin for the current and future predicted water balance:
  - Five degrees or more of warming by the end of the century, with an increase in rainfall likely, except during summer which may be drier.
  - Glacier retreat and melt is accelerating.
  - Timing of major mountain river discharges will be accelerated by 15 days mid-century, and one month late-century.
  - Major mountain river annual discharges might decrease slightly or increase by up to half of current flows by mid-century.
  - Major mountain river annual discharges might not change or may increase by up to ¾ of current flows by late century.
  - Most scenarios show a drop in June-July-August River flows, sometimes up to 50% of current flows.
- Modelling results for the Peace and Athabasca River Basins may indicate large increases in peak daily streamflow and advances in timing of the peak, but lower late summer flows.

- Adaptations and solutions include improvements in water monitoring and predictions to inform water management, implementation of new and evolving science-informed techniques for water management, and community-based to provincial level river basin adaptation.

### Discussion

- **Q:** There is some work in this area undertaken through the University of Lethbridge and funded by Alberta Innovates. Are you acquainted with that work?
  - **A:** Yes. The University of Lethbridge isn't formally a part of Global Water Futures, but there is close collaboration with the researchers there.
- **Q:** Your presentation mentioned improving storage efficiency. Are you suggesting expediting storage projects or being more strategic with their locations to improve capture?
  - **A:** Efficiency is one piece of the puzzle and there are different ways to improve it. For example, accelerating the process of replacing ditches with pipelines will result in less open water evaporation. Open water evaporation is also an issue for open water reservoirs. You need to look at the overall system to determine what is needed, but I think additional storage will be required to get through extreme events like multi-year droughts. Alberta doesn't have groundwater to fall back on in those times; it is often high in dissolved solids and not suitable for use, and it isn't recharged much. Alberta doesn't have alternative water sources that other locations can rely on in times of drought, so increased storage will help bridge that gap.
- **Q:** There are a lot of models being used for water. Does that present problems for comparing results? Is there a "gold standard" model to use?
  - **A:** For this Global Water Futures project, we used a multi-model approach. The MESH model was best for that type of application, but there are others, such as the Cold Region Hydrological Model, and the Canadian Hydrological Model. There is also a next generation platform in development between University of Saskatchewan, the University of Calgary, and international partners. Different models are more well-suited for different applications, but if a model doesn't have a physical basis they tend to fail.
- **Q:** The environmental community works to maintain the health of river channels. Can river channels support increased storage? Do they have a benefit?
  - **A:** Increasing water storage doesn't always mean concrete and dams; it can be natural storage, such as wetlands. Any feature that will slow the flow of water down into the system will be beneficial. River channels give the rivers room to flood, and they are recharging aquifers which keep baseflows going in the fall, winter, and early spring.

### **3 Drought Mutual Support Committee and Sector Updates**

Andre Asselin, a co-chair of the Drought Mutual Support Committee, provided an update on the committee's work. The committee continues to meet monthly and is documenting the information shared by committee members on their drought mitigation efforts.

Lauren Welsh, of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, provided a June Drought Update presentation. Highlights from the presentation included:

- Drought conditions are beginning to improve. Reservoirs are recovering, and some river levels are within normal ranges. Many rivers continue to be below normal levels, however.
- Mountain snowpack has also improved, and many areas are at average to above average snowpack.
- In southern Alberta, the Oldman Basin and tributaries remains the highest risk area. In northern Alberta, the Peace and Hay River Basins are the areas of greatest concern, and three more water shortage advisories were added within the last week.
- Drought response actions have minimized impact to communities, and there are seven water shortage advisories still in effect.
- Water sharing agreements have been activated for the Oldman River Basin and southern tributaries. Agreements for the Bow River Basin and Red Deer River Basin are not activated due to recent precipitation.
- The Drought Response Plan was publicly released on May 2, 2024.
- The deadline to apply the current round of funding through the Flood and Drought Protection program was June 6, 2024, and \$125 million in funding was announced for municipalities and Indigenous communities.
- Changes to the *Water Act* came into place on May 30, 2024, to protect the supply of water for all communities, and ensure water is readily available for priority uses, including public health and safety needs, livestock welfare, critical infrastructure, and critical environmental needs.
- The Drought Emergency Operations Centre is continuing outreach, including 1-on-1 meetings in southern Alberta and a general information campaign in northern Alberta.

#### Discussion:

- **Q:** Is there a planned duration for the *Water Act* amendments that came into place on May 30<sup>th</sup>?
  - **A:** The changes to the *Water Act* and other pieces of legislation have been proclaimed and are in force now but would only come into effect when an emergency is declared under the *Water Act*. To date, Alberta has never declared an emergency under the *Water Act*.
- **Q:** What conditions are required to declare an emergency under the *Water Act*?
  - **A:** When conditions reach stage 5 of provincial drought response then the province would consider declaring an emergency, but it is not a guarantee.
- **Q:** Your presentation noted there aren't any alternative sources of water for any users in northern Alberta. Are additional actions being contemplated for that region?
  - **A:** The first step is to reach out to communities of concern, particularly those on smaller tributaries, assess their risk and work with them to find solutions. Solutions could be temporary diversion licenses or bringing water in by truck. This is the first stage of the outreach, and we've been doing that with specific communities.
- **Q:** What's the current drought stage in the province?
  - **A:** The whole province is at stage 4 of the provincial drought response. Conditions are changing; we're seeing precipitation and mountain snowpack improvements, but we're moving into a warmer time of year and demand will increase. We're not yet at a point where we will look at changing that drought stage for specific parts of the province.
- **Q:** How are downstream reservoirs like Chin doing?

- **A:** Chin, and other private reservoirs, are subject to sharing agreements but we don't have information on storage levels. For all reservoirs, we are paying attention to municipal impacts, as are the irrigation districts.
- **Q:** Is BC Hydro still committing to 400m<sup>3</sup> going into the Peace as they fill site C this year?
  - **A:** There is no formal water sharing agreement in place with BC Hydro; we have an information sharing agreement. There are no changes with respect to how they're planning to operate, at this point. The province is looking to restart talks with BC on transboundary water.
- The water sharing agreements developed this year are Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and not actual agreements. Communication with the public about these should be clear on that matter.

Board members were given an opportunity to share information on their drought-related activities, and are summarized below:

- The forestry sector has been meeting with the provincial Drought Response Team on a regular basis. The drought concerns have shifted from southern to northern Alberta over the course of a few weeks, and in particular the Wapiti River is under strain. A member company of the Alberta Forest Products Association in the region is communicating with other water-users about possible water sharing agreements and water-reuse to support drought response and mitigation.
- The fisheries habitat conservation sector has been working on several fronts, including supporting riparian health through education, outreach, restoration, and best management practices as well as advocating on various fish habitat issues. For example, Trout Unlimited Canada has been working on fish habitat improvements in the Porcupine Hills region, including using beaver mimicry to increase the water storage and fish habitat.

Discussion:

- Surface water is subject to license transfers. If beaver analogs result in water that is being retained and planned for allocation, that would require an approval. Other natural solutions, such as creation of a wetland, may have more flexibility.

#### **4 Potential Work for the AWC**

Following the release of the Improving Resilience to Drought in Alberta Through a Simulation Project report and recommendations in February, there is staff capacity to launch a new working group to develop terms of reference for a new project team. Two statements of opportunity (SoOs) were provided in the briefing materials and a third was distributed in the supplemental meeting package. Andre provided a presentation summarizing the process for starting new work, the discussions had about potential projects in recent meetings, and the three statements of opportunity provided to the board for consideration.

Discussion:

- The CEP forum SoO seems to be looking back at the things we've done in the past, rather than focusing on new practices and new thinking. We need to be forward-looking to bring the most benefit.

- The forum would also provide an opportunity to look at the latest and greatest innovations in CEP at the individual municipal and facility-level improvements; what has been happening recently and providing opportunities to share that information with others to help them move forward.
- **Q:** Is there a champion for the drought simulation how-to guide SoO?
  - **A:** That project came from a recommendation approved by the board in 2023. The board has agreed to support it. Conditions have changed since the recommendation was approved, and many groups who would have benefitted from the guide have found solutions as they worked through this recent drought. However, there are groups who have yet to work through drought-related management issues and would benefit from the how-to guide.
- **Q:** Would municipalities see a benefit from the drought simulation how-to guide?
  - **A:** There is value in this work. Municipalities are faced with different circumstances. Some are still being challenged with drought conditions. It would be proactive to put something like this together before a crisis, rather than attempting to do so during one.
  - **A:** Different areas have different dynamics and metrics for water. Looking to the future, potable water is the main “need” factor that economic development will depend on. For example, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge are distributors and producers of potable water, and there’s an appetite to build infrastructure between the two municipalities so other places can access potable water. It’s a critical issue that we need to understand, and projects such as the how-to guide could support that.
  - **A:** The drought work could also be an opportunity to develop consistent definitions and application of terms related to water management, which are needed.
- There are huge opportunities around water treatment, wastewater management, and water reuse and recycling. Leveraging regional solutions becomes very important, and the CEP forum would provide a great opportunity to talk about those things.
- The water-using sectors provided CEP updates in the fall, so if the CEP forum is focused on what we’ve done then there may be better uses for the financial support that would be required to hold a large forum. Some groups would likely see benefit from the drought simulation toolkit, but it will vary between watersheds. We’ve been working through real drought conditions for the past year, so participation from some groups and areas might be minimal.
- For the healthy aquatic ecosystems SoO, the question is whether a consensus-based multistakeholder approach is the right one at this time.
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems have a direct tie to *Water for Life*, so there might be more support for that than for the CEP forum or the drought simulation how-to guide.
- Water reuse and recycling is a topic that’s being talked about a lot recently. There’s a lot of work to do in this space, such as how to use wastewater and process water. A jurisdictional scan could be useful.
- Regarding CEP, it would be good to have feedback from government on the information we’re providing and whether there are questions not being answered. For water reuse and recycling, that has been tried before but there are significant legislative roadblocks. It could be worth revisiting, however. From a drought perspective, more simulations may not be useful. Lastly, healthy aquatic ecosystems could be a good project, but the

scope needs refinement to make it more specific. There's an opportunity to look at the impacts of drought and floods on aquatic ecosystems.

- The question of whether aquatic ecosystems are healthy and how we can improve them comes up often, so that would be a good project.
- One area of healthy aquatic ecosystems that would be good for a project is monitoring. How is that information used, and what is the process for incorporating that information into the overall management system.
- It sounds like there's some interest in water availability, whether for growth and potable water, agrifood development, of alternative sources. That theme fits well with EPA's mandate. There is also a lot of interest in the HAE work, though it would need significant rescoping and determining whether that would be an appropriate project for AWC to take on at this time.
  - We should ensure any water availability work doesn't duplicate efforts of GoA's drought-related committees.
- Adaptability in the face of future changing water conditions is also an area for potential work.

Due to time constraints, the discussion on this item was paused and was revisited later in the agenda.

## **5 Source Water Protection Phase I: Risk Assessment Data and Tools Project Team Update**

Trevor Boston from Greenland International Consulting, the contractor hired to develop the web tool for the Source Water Protection Phase I Project Team, provided a presentation to the board. The project team has been working with Greenland since early 2024 to build on the existing THREATS platform by adding functionality, datasets, instructions, tutorials, and other resources to support improved source water protection planning in Alberta.

The presentation included an overview of the THREATS tool, including an overview of some of the modules, datasets, and other resources developed.

### Discussion:

- **Q:** Can you tell us a bit more about the workshops that are planned for later in the year?
  - **A:** They are meant to be interactive. We want to get feedback on how useable the platform is. The general structure of the workshops will be an introduction presentation on the platform and technical details on how to use the tools, followed by breakout sessions where participants will complete exercises that have been set up in advance. At the end of the session, we'll ask the participants for feedback.
- **Q:** How responsive will the platform be to changing conditions, such as what we've been seeing related to drought or what we expect to see because of climate change?
  - **A:** The platform has huge potential, and it comes down to the creativity of the user. There are lots of data related to water quality and quantity which are constantly being updated. One of our newer modules uses remote sensing data from satellites to analyze changes in land or water over time. For example, we can look at water levels in lakes and reservoirs using remote sensing data which could be used to investigate drought or flood impacts.

## 6 **Water for Life Action Plan Project Team Update**

Andre Asselin, a co-chair of the project team, provided a presentation on the project team. Because of extenuating circumstances, the project team was not able to move ahead with its terms of reference and been paused for several months. The project team feels they are unable to deliver on the terms of reference as they are currently written and is requesting a scope change as well as a timeline extension to October 2024.

The requested scope change is for the team to deliver two documents, in place of an action plan:

- An internal “lessons learned” report that documents the work of the project team and the perspectives from project team members along with the challenges that led to the change in scope.
- A public memo providing high-level background information on the project and its outcomes.

### Discussion

- **Q:** What will be presented at the October board meeting?
  - **A:** The two documents outlined in the revised terms of reference. Today we’re approving the change in scope and the project team will begin work on the documents right away.
- **Q:** How does this impact other *Water for Life* related work, such as the implementation reviews?
  - **A:** This project was for the development of an action plan and isn’t related to the implementation reviews. The *Water for Life* Implementation Review projects are still in the AWC’s business plan, and that is not impacted by any decision on this project.

***Decision 66.2: The board approved the amendment to the Water for Life Action Plan Project’s terms of reference.***

## 7 **Potential Work for the AWC (continued)**

The discussion on potential new work and the three draft statements of opportunity provided in the briefing package was continued.

### Discussion

- **Q:** Is the GoA undertaking work on water availability through the EPA Minister's committees?
  - **A:** No. The committee is providing advice to the Minister, but not delivering on specific actions. There would not likely be a conflict between the AWC’s work and that of the Minister’s advisory committee.
- **Q:** Do we only have capacity to begin one project? If we start a project on water availability, does that mean we can’t also work on healthy aquatic ecosystems?
  - **A:** If there’s support for it, there could be a second group to discuss healthy aquatic ecosystems. Whether we can take on more than one project depends on the project’s intensity. An ad-hoc group to scope an issue is lower intensity and we can have more than one of those groups. A full project team is more resource intensive.



- It may be more efficient to pick one and move forward with development of terms of reference, rather than starting ad hoc groups, which take some time and will delay the start of new work.
- It's important we contribute to the province's overall goals for water management. The three SoOs we have for discussion today don't have broad support based on the discussion today. We should scope a project that is strategic and forward-looking that contributes to EPA's water management priorities. There has been a recurring theme around water recycling and reuse, finding sources of potable water for residential or commercial expansion. It rolls up nicely around water availability, in general.
- Water availability deserves a lot of attention sooner rather than later. Part of that work could involve looking at potable water sources and destinations.
- We want to develop products that people are interested in and that would be helpful. It sounds like there are some barriers and it would be helpful if we looked at those pieces. We'll need to fully scope a project on water availability to determine what those outcomes are.
- A project on water availability should include consideration for how changes could negatively impact aquatic ecosystems.

It would be an opportunity to address the need for common definitions around water availability as well.

***Decision 66.3: The board approved formation of a working group to scope a project on barriers and opportunities for improving water availability for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses while respecting the health of aquatic ecosystems.***

**Action Item 66.1: AWC staff to develop a call for members for the new working group and distribute it to the board.**

## **8 Administration**

### **7.1 Approve summary report from the February 22, 2024, board meeting**

There were no edits to the February 2024 meeting summary. There were no further questions or comments, and the minutes were approved by consensus.

***Decision 66.4: The board approved the February 2024 meeting summary by consensus, and it will be posted to the website.***

### **7.2 Review actions from last meeting**

Detailed updates on the action items were provided in the briefing package. There were no comments or questions.

### **7.3 Approve a process to develop the AWC's 2025-2027 Business Plan**

The AWC prepares a three-year business plan to guide its strategic direction and annual operational plans. The previous business plan was prepared in 2022 and covers the period of 2022-2024.

At their recent meeting, the executive committee approved a process for the board to consider. This process would develop the AWC's 2025-2027 business plan with input from Council members and a potential workshop for feedback and approval. The draft process and timelines were included in the briefing package.

There were no comments or questions.

**Decision 66.5: The board approved the process to develop the AWC's 2025-2027 business plan.**

#### **7.4 Update on Revising the AWC's Process Guidelines**

A process to revise the Process Guidelines was approved at the February board meeting, and an initial draft was distributed to the board for feedback shortly after. Staff are collecting feedback on the draft and expect to distribute a revised version prior to the October board meeting.

There were no comments or questions.

### **9 Information reports and opportunity for questions**

#### **8.1 Executive Director's report**

The report was included in the board package.

##### Discussion

- **Q:** How is the staffing level right now?
  - **A:** We're looking at bringing someone in to help with communications. Previously we had a dedicated communications role, which was beneficial. That person left the organization, and we redistributed the workload, but we need more support as communication is important and there are areas where we could do more to promote our work. There's room in the budget to hire someone, and we have started the process by developing a job description.

#### **8.2 Government of Alberta update**

The update was included in the board package.

Assistant Deputy Minister Kate Rich and Executive Director Jaclyn Schmidtof EPA gave a presentation on Modernizing Water Management in Alberta. The presentation included a review of EPA's mandate for water and actions that are being taken to achieve that mandate. The focus of the presentation was on measurement and reporting. Some water use reporting is voluntary, and reporting frequency is not timely enough to support water management decisions in real time. There is a proposed shift for more consistent and mandatory water use measuring and reporting to ensure the province can effectively manage water resources. Accurate tracking of actual water use will allow the government to manage limited water resources more precisely, and water use data is foundational to achieving long-term water management objectives. Broader engagement will begin in the summer, and the GoA will be seeking feedback.

##### Discussion

- **Q:** Will the water use reporting be available to the public, and will the 10% holdback still apply?
  - **A:** That's unknown, as we haven't launched the public consultation yet. We're primarily interested in increasing our transparency for crown management, and part of that discussion will be what information is being collected and how it's stored. These proposed changes are about measurement, and the 10% holdback is separate from this.

- **Q:** Your presentation noted that you want this process to be nimble, what changes will support that?
  - **A:** We will be taking a holistic look at our policies, processes, and data infrastructure to support that.
- **Q:** Are you starting with any particular sector?
  - **A:** That will be part of our public engagement. We want to know how we should start this process. Do we start with basins under stress, or with large users, or with types of users. It needs a systematic approach. Overall, we want to make sure we're getting information that's usable for management processes and long-term policy objectives as well as immediate operational needs.
- I would be interested to see how instream flow needs data will be integrated into this discussion, particularly the implications of increasing availability and transparency around data and how that relates to instream flow needs.
- **Q:** Are you looking at replacing the water use reporting system and transporting it into something like DRAS?
  - **A:** This is about enhancing information availability rather than the specific system being used. There are wider government commitments to reducing administrative burden and red tape, but in this area more information is warranted.
- An increase in reporting should consider tracking and reporting on alternate water uses, so water reuse and recycling can be included.
- Smaller license holders were confused about the conversations around water sharing agreements. Smaller agricultural license-holders and private irrigators didn't know where to turn, and they don't have a lot of knowledge of the *Water Act* and regulations around water. It is important to educate the people who hold these licenses before having conversations with them around measuring and reporting.

### **8.3 Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Sector Updates**

An information report on the status of the work was included in the board package. There were no questions or comments.

### **8.4 AWC Sector Updates**

Sector updates have been posted to the AWC's SharePoint. Board members were given an opportunity to speak about their sector update, which is summarized below:

- The fisheries habitat conservation sector is progressing work on several fronts:
  - Cows and Fish are supporting riparian health through education and outreach, as well as restoration and stewardship best management practices with landowners.
  - Alberta Wildlife Federation (formerly Alberta Fish and Game Association) is undergoing a rebranding. Habitat, of which aquatic ecosystems are a critical component, remains a major focus.
  - Native trout habitat work has been a big part of the Alberta Conservation Association's fisheries program, and riparian conservation work is being done by ACA's land management and wildlife programs.
  - The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta have conducted studies at Loomis Creek to survey for Bull Trout and to assess risk to Bull Trout habitat from planned logging activity.

- The Alberta Wilderness Association is advocating on various fish and habitat issues, including cumulative effects of development being factored into decisions that impact fish habitat, particularly in threatened, biodiverse regions like the Eastern Slopes.
- Trout Unlimited Canada has been working on fish habitat improvements in the Porcupine Hills region, with a focus on upper Trout Creek where fish are presumed extirpated. This includes bridging motorized recreational crossings, realigning motorized trails out of streams and floodplains, and beaver mimicry to increase the water storage and fish habitat.
- Kris Samraj has moved on from Alberta Municipalities, and the Small Urban sector would like to thank him for his leadership in various workings related to the AWC. Other sector updates included:
  - Small municipalities are trying to understand water conservation in light of new restrictions, but water conservation efforts can easily be side-tracked by other circumstances. For example, Bow Island had a major fire that destroyed a key business and impacted 40 employees. That event meant the time and resources that could have been dedicated to water conservation had to be diverted.
  - Municipalities are introducing incentives to improve water conservation. Coaldale, for example, has been following the restrictions the City of Lethbridge implemented, and has introduced a system where if a person buys a water or rain barrel, they can submit their receipt to the town office for a \$50 rebate. It is a small matter, but it helps residents understand conservation repurpose valuable water for their personal needs.

### **8.5 CASA project updates for the AWC Board**

A written update was provided on CASA projects for the AWC board; there were no questions or comments.

### **New or other business**

Board members were reminded to look for a call for members for the new working group soon, and the business planning survey. They were invited to send updates to their sector profiles to Anuja and fill out the meeting survey, which helps staff improve various aspects of board meetings.

Participants were thanked for joining the meeting.

The next board meeting is October 24 in Edmonton, at the QEII Building. The annual recognition event will be held at the same venue during the evening on October 23. Ideas for a potential field tour are being considered for the afternoon of October 23.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

## **Attachment 1: Meeting #66 Attendees**

### **In Attendance**

#### **AWC Directors and Alternates**

Bill Chapman, Government (Small Urban)  
Brett Purdy, GoA and Provincial Authorities  
(Science and Research)  
Cindy Shepel, Government (Large Urban)  
Dan Moore, Industry (Forestry)  
Deanna Cottrell, Industry (Oil & Gas)  
Geoffrey Wacowich, GoA and Provincial  
Authorities (Environment and Protected  
Areas)  
Jamie Wuite, GoA and Provincial Authorities  
(Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation)  
Janice Linehan, Industry (Mining)  
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)  
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment  
Conservation)  
Jeff Shipton, Industry (Forestry)  
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)

John Conrad, GoA and Provincial Authorities  
(Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation)  
Lesley Peterson, NGO (Fisheries Habitat  
Conservation)  
Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)  
Melody Garner-Skiba, Industry (Livestock)  
Margo Jarvis Redelback, Industry (Irrigation)  
Nevin Rosaasen, Industry (Cropping)  
Reg Warkentin, Industry (Cropping)  
Rob van Diemen, Industry (Livestock)  
Steph Neufeld, NGO (Lake Environment  
Conservation)  
Steve Meadows, NGO (WPACs)  
Tara Payment, Industry (Oil & Gas)  
Vicki Lightbown, GoA and Provincial  
Authorities (Science and Research)  
Andre Asselin, Executive Director (ex-officio)

#### **Absent with Regrets:**

Amber Link, Government (Rural)  
Brian Deheer, NGO (Environmental)  
Darren Calliou, Government (Métis Settlements)  
Kimberly Nelson, GoA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health)  
Nancy Mackay, Government (Large Urban)  
Rob Hoffman, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)  
Sherri Wilson, GoA and Provincial Authorities (Environment and Protected Areas)  
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetlands Conservation)

#### **Presenters:**

John Pomeroy, University of Saskatchewan (Item 2.0)  
Andre Asselin, Alberta Water Council (Item 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0)  
Lauren Welsh, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Item 3.0)  
Trevor Boston, Greenland International Consulting (Item 5.0)  
Kate Rich and Jaclyn Schmidt Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Item 8.2)

#### **AWC Staff and Contractors:**

Alec Carrigy, Anuja Hoddinott, Katie Duffett, Mariem Oloroso

#### **Guests:**

Kate Rich, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Jaclyn Schmidt, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
John Pomeroy, University of Saskatchewan

Lauren Welsh, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Trevor Boston, Greenland International Consulting Ltd.

**Observers:**

Curt Horning, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Darren Bourget, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Jaclyn Schmidt, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Martina Krieger, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Marilea Pattison-Perry, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Mike Christensen, Epcor (Item 2.0)  
Nicole Pysh, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Susan Campbell, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Wendy Birch, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

## **Attachment 2: Meeting #66 Decision Log and Action Items**

### **Decisions**

*Decision 66.1: The board approved the agenda by consensus.*

*Decision 66.2: The board approved the amendment to the Water for Life Action Plan Project's terms of reference.*

*Decision 66.3: The board approved formation of a working group to scope a project on barriers and opportunities for improving water availability for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses while respecting the health of aquatic ecosystems.*

*Decision 66.4: The board approved the February 2024 meeting summary by consensus, and it will be posted to the website.*

*Decision 66.5: The board approved the process to develop the AWC's 2025-2027 business plan.*

### **Action Items**

**Action Item 66.1: AWC staff to develop a call for members for the new working group and distribute it to the board.**