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# ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

## MEETING #5

May 6, 2005

Sawridge Inn, Fort McMurray, Alberta

### Summary Report

#### Key Points:

- Water Council members toured the Albian Sands facility and the Muskeg River mine site north of Fort McMurray as part of continuing efforts to improve their understanding of water management issues in Alberta.
- Environment Minister, Hon. Guy Boutilier, attended the meeting. He congratulated Council members on their work to date, recognizing the important role Council plays in guiding implementation of the Water for Life strategy.
- Council heard a presentation from the Canada West Foundation on their January 2005 report, *Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth*. Information provided in this report will serve as input to the Council's work on water efficiency and productivity.
- The Council's executive led a discussion of the overall strategic direction, with members agreeing on the following seven key areas of focus for Council activities:
  - Wetland policy
  - Water research
  - Water efficiency and productivity targets
  - Communications and marketing
  - Supporting work of the WPACs
  - Developing a longer-term strategy and set of priorities
  - Describing Council's stewardship role and what that entails
- Archie Waquan, Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation spoke to the Council about the water issues facing his community and recommended actions.
- Council established two project teams at this meeting. The Wetland Policy Project Team will recommend a wetland policy and implementation plan to the Government of Alberta, based on consultation with Albertans; the policy will contribute significantly to advancing the goals in the Water for Life strategy. The Reporting Project Team will oversee the production of the Council's two key reports for 2005: the first review of the effectiveness, status and progress of the Water for Life Strategy, and the Council's 2004-05 annual report.

#### Attachments to the Meeting Summary:

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

#### Additional Documentation:

- *Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth*

## Summary of Discussion

### 1. Introductions

Bill Berzins convened the meeting at 8:45 am and welcomed everyone.

- a) **Review of Agenda.** Terry Sly reviewed the agenda, which was adopted by consensus.
- b) **Approval of Summary Report from February 10, 2005 Meeting.** Terry Sly reviewed the summary report, noting areas where small changes were proposed to the draft that was sent out to members. Members agreed by consensus to these changes.

**Action 5.1: Terry Sly will distribute the revised final minutes of Meeting 4 to Council members.**

- c) **Action Items from February 10, 2005 Meeting.** Terry Sly reviewed the action items from the last meeting and provided an update and status on each one. All actions have been completed or are on the agenda for this meeting, except 4.2, 4.5, and 4.7. Items 4.5 and 4.7 will be completed for meeting 6; item 4.2 was briefly discussed under agenda item 1e, and will be held in abeyance for the time being. Members will be asked to provide information about communicating with their sectors when the Council is more nearly ready to undertake specific communications and outreach activities.
- d) **Asset Mapping.** Terry advised that information from each member has been incorporated into the chart, which was distributed prior to the meeting. This chart will be used to ensure members have an opportunity to be involved in future Council issues as issues arise, even if they miss a meeting. The table will evolve, and if members develop a new interest in an issue, they will always have a chance to get involved in a working group or project team.
- e) **Media, Communications and Outreach Activities.** Terry provided a short summary of recent activities and distributed copies of the winter 2005 issue of *Green Matters*, a newsletter from the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Council. Dave Hill and Terry were interviewed for this issue, which also contained information on Watershed Public Advisory Committees and Watershed Stewardship Groups. Terry noted that the recent conference organized by Alberta Environment featured several presentations involving or making reference to the Alberta Water Council (AWC), including presentations by Dave Hill and Bill Berzins. A number of Council members attended the conference.

Peter Watson assumed the chair at this point, noting that sometime in the next 4-6 weeks, a report will be made to the Standing Policy Committee on the facility assessment of drinking water plants across the province. He also expects the Water for Life strategy to be on the agenda of the Government's Agenda and Priorities Committee shortly.

Peter thanked Judy Smith for organizing and leading the May 5<sup>th</sup> tour to the Albian Sands-Muskeg River facility, which was attended by most Council members. He advised that the Canada West Foundation has published a new report entitled *Treasure in the Sand*, which is a good overview of oilsands development in Alberta, and is available in the publications section of the CWF website at [www.cwf.ca](http://www.cwf.ca).

## **2. Presentation: Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth**

Karen Wilkie, a policy analyst with the Canada West Foundation (CWF), presented a summary of the water and economic growth initiative consultations undertaken by the CWF and published in January 2005. These consultations underscored the importance of water to western Canadians and identified a number of areas and opportunities related to water conservation. Educating and raising awareness of a wide range of audiences will be essential to protecting Alberta's water for the future.

During discussion, Council members noted that:

- The message about conserving water and managing it wisely needs to be communicated in different ways to different audiences, and the Council should keep this in mind as its work unfolds. People have different understandings and ways of acting and setting priorities, but the message is that water is key to life.
- Reaching young people is particularly important, as they can influence their parents and help their families make more informed choices about water use. The message needs to be consistent, and while the schools can assist in this process, there are limits on what can be done through the formal education system due to the time and resources available. Some members advised that individual sectors work with educators to develop curriculum resources; one example can be found online at the SEEDS Foundation website at <http://www.seedsfoundation.ca/waterchallenge.html>
- Incentives and other economic instruments have a role to play, but we should not forget about the value of a regulatory approach when other options don't achieve the desired results.
- Water pricing is an important issue. One member asked for the precise wording and results of the survey question relating to water pricing for individual citizens and industry.

**Action 5.2: Karen Wilkie will inquire about the precise wording of the question on water pricing for industry and individual citizens and whether the results can be provided to the AWC, and will advise Terry Sly.**

## **3. Greetings from the Minister, Hon Guy Boutilier**

Peter Watson introduced Hon Guy Boutilier, Minister of Environment and MLA for the Fort McMurray area. The Minister welcomed Council members to his riding and extended best wishes from Lorne Taylor, the former minister who established the AWC. Mr. Boutilier stressed the importance of water to the province, saying he is very much looking forward to getting input and advice from the AWC, and is quite encouraged by the AWC's work to date. Many parts of the world have adopted conservation measures to deal with water shortages and it would be prudent for Alberta to learn from these experiences and better recognize the value of this resource. Albertans have told government that the environment is one of their top three priorities, which suggests they are willing to play a part in protecting resources. The Minister looks forward to carrying the Council's work and recommendations to Cabinet and is very optimistic about building on this foundation for the coming years. Alberta Environment's budget was increased this year and the Minister is working in Cabinet and with Treasury to get another \$3-billion over the next ten years, with implementation of the Water for Life strategy being an important component.

During discussion with the Minister, Council members noted that:

- Water issues are a little different in northern Alberta. There are many plans for water allocation and there is no sense of scarcity in the north; this perception needs to change, but there are not as many opportunities or mechanisms here. The Minister stressed the importance of education and outreach to raise awareness, noting that the AWC will have a key role in this area.
- The government should make sure it focuses on the real priority issues rather than be diverted by issues that may not be as important but are attracting public attention. The Minister is hopeful that the Council will provide some advice on what it regards as the key issues with respect to water.

#### 4. Executive Report

The executive committee met in February to discuss approaches to managing the business of the AWC and ensure the Council is focused on areas that will create momentum. The discussions from this meeting were previously distributed to members.

Bill Berzins presented a summary of the executive discussions, noting that there are high expectations for the AWC and considerable interest in its activities. A number of local and regional groups are already engaged in issues that are of interest to the AWC. Bill pointed particularly to activities taking place in the North Saskatchewan, Bow, and Oldman basins. The Council needs to be very strategic in deciding where to focus its activities to avoid “reinventing the wheel” and fragmenting resources; the goal should be to move a few key things to completion rather than trying to take on too many things at once and moving each only a little.

The executive proposed five priority areas for the AWC:

- **Wetland policy.** This is a high priority for the province as a whole and will require considerable attention by the Council to achieve a cohesive, integrated and clear policy that can withstand close scrutiny by all sectors. The expectation is that it will be done in stages, with regular opportunities for Council input. It is a chance to build capacity and better position the AWC to address other policy issues in the future. When Council has consensus on a policy, the Minister has committed to take it unfettered to Cabinet. This project will require all members to be engaged, speak openly and honestly, and ensure their stakeholders’ interests are adequately represented.
- **Water research.** Council has a crucial leadership role to ensure the rationalization of research needs and to identify what it needs to make the decisions that it is expected to make. The plan is to work with ASRA to establish a framework for setting research priorities.
- **Water efficiency and productivity targets.** Work is needed to review economic instruments, efficiency achievements, best practices, and benchmarks, and to provide guidance and tools to help Watershed Public Advisory Committees (WPACs) set targets for their basins.

- **Communications and marketing.** Much of the success of the AWC and WPACs will rely on education and involvement by water users across the province. The AWC can encourage and advocate for active engagement with the WPACs, particularly on the part of industry.
- **Supporting work of WPACs.** A key strategic role for the AWC is to ensure alignment of the work now occurring at the local and regional levels, and help ensure resources and tools are there for others to move implementation of the Water for Life (WFL) strategy forward. Part of the AWC's role in building capacity at the WPAC level could include supporting conferences and workshops, and partnering with key sectors where opportunities are identified.

Council members offered the following comments in discussing the executive proposal:

- Does the AWC want to make a priority of influencing discussion on water management and governance, particularly in the context of WPACs?
- It would be useful to hear from existing and emerging WPACs as to what they think they should or should not be doing. Also, there may be a danger that high levels of activity and outreach might lead to disengagement on the part of some individuals or sectors due to confusion about who is doing what. The AWC may want to consider if and how it should deal with this as new WPACs and Watershed Stewardship Groups (WSGs) emerge.
- Watershed management is based on the characteristics of watersheds, which differ across the province. The AWC needs to think carefully about its role and get involved in the right places to facilitate the grassroots work that will achieve the outcomes the Council wants to see.
- The AWC has some responsibility with respect to water conservation targets, and several members expressed concerns about leaving this task solely to each WPAC to set a target for its area. Although some aspects are unique to each watershed, the thinking and attitude need to be consistent across the province – that conservation is an issue. The Council should develop an overarching conservation plan and provide the tools for the WPACs to move it forward.
- Council should have a mechanism for revisiting its priorities to ensure the list adequately reflects the issues that are of concern to all members.
- Council initially discussed setting a five-year workplan, and needs to revisit this idea, structuring items into short, medium and long-term time frames.
- One of the AWC's main goals is to steward WFL implementation, and this is not reflected in the list of priorities. The Council should devote more time to reviewing the government's implementation report and providing advice on what it thinks are the high priorities. Performance indicators are an important aspect; if the AWC wants to have these included in next year's report, it needs to begin work on them now as part of the stewardship obligation.
- The AWC will be judged on its products and needs to have some "quick wins" in some key areas in response to the expectations. Keeping the priority list manageable and realistic is important.
- Education is important, especially in the context of raising awareness across the province, but the AWC needs to carefully consider what it can take on and what is better left to other stakeholders and organizations to do. As the broad categories are better defined, the issue of education is likely to become clearer.

- An organizational or flowchart to show how the Council plans to get to each of its deliverables would help explain the various roles and relationships. The role of the AWC is to drive implementation rather than get immersed in implementation details; Council can provide policy support and tools for others to do the work. Council needs to consider how much effort it needs to put into each of the priority areas. Some issues like drinking water are being addressed primarily by others, and the AWC's role will be mainly oversight.
- WPACs have not been formed yet in many parts of Alberta. This is a concern especially for communities in the north, which includes 23 of the 45 First Nations. Council needs to be cautious about how much work it proposes for WPACs since there are wide disparities in people available to do the work. WPACs and WSGs are important elements in implementing the WFL strategy and their formation should be supported and accelerated across the province. However, there is also a need for consistency in terms of what WPACs and WSGs do and how the Council interacts with them. This relationship should be addressed and clarified before others are formed.

**Decision 5.1: Members agreed by consensus with the five “tactical” priorities proposed by the executive, and added two strategic items to the list:**

- **Developing a longer-term strategy and set of priorities for the AWC**
- **Describing the Council's stewardship role and what that entails**

Members felt that the AWC needs to ensure that all of its priorities contribute to the primary goals of the WFL strategy, and members generally agreed that these do. Members also suggested that, as part of describing the Council's stewardship role, work should be undertaken as soon as possible to describe and clarify the relationship and respective roles and expectations for the AWC and the WPACs. Alberta Environment has prepared some materials, and it was suggested that CASA documentation on airshed zones might also provide useful guidance.

**Action 5.3: The executive will develop a plan, including proposed time frames, for advancing the seven priorities, for discussion at the June Council meeting.**

**5. Presentation and Discussion with First Nations Representatives**

a) **Archie Waquan, Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation**, presented a brief overview of the water issues and concerns facing his community, which receives water from the Peace, Athabasca and Wapiti river systems. Because of their location, this community receives the impacts of all upstream development in the watershed, and has experienced a range of health and ecological effects. They recognize the value of economic development, but there are cumulative effects on the ecosystem and limits on what can be tolerated. Development must be sustainable over hundreds of years, not a few years or decades.

Chief Waquan expressed concerns about how CEMA (Cumulative Environmental Management Association) is functioning. Specific issues relate to (a) the length of time it takes to develop recommendations, with only four having been made to the province to date; and (b) the lack of equality of membership, with First Nations a minority presence in this process despite having stewardship over a significant amount of the land base.

Chief Waquan asked the province to form a watershed planning and advisory council for this region as soon as possible, since a number of developments have been proposed for the watershed in a very short time frame. He also noted that, with only one representative, his community does not feel the membership of the AWC adequately reflects the interests and the land base of First Nations.

In discussion with Council members, there was recognition of the challenges faced in ensuring meaningful and timely participation by First Nations in the various EIA and other processes. They need to be at the table and also need to have support to assist in interpreting and understanding the technical nature of the models, forecasts, and other documentation associated with these processes. Previous initiatives, such as the Northern River Basins Study and the Mackenzie River Basin work have tried to ensure First Nations involvement and build in the traditional knowledge component. Alberta Environment has also been working with First Nations in northern Alberta to support staff secondments and exchanges in an effort to improve reciprocal understanding and familiarity with the issues and approaches.

**b) Blair Whenham, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Industry Relations Corporations Director**, extended regrets from Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Archie Cyprien who was unable to attend the meeting. He provided a brief overview of the role of the Industry Relations Corporations (IRC), noting that each of the five First Nations in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has its own IRC, which runs under a specific agreement. Industry and the three orders of government are involved, and the IRCs also have direct agreements with specific industries and companies in their areas. The IRCs broker relationships and meetings between First Nations and industries and ensure that the key concerns of the First Nations communities are brought to the table when developments are proposed or issues arise. IRCs participate in various committees that look at environmental issues in the region, and are working to build the capacity of First Nations to respond to these issues. Leadership and elders are actively engaged and provide advice as part of the project consultations.

Peter Watson thanked Chief Waquan and Mr. Whenham for attending the meeting.

## **6. Wetland Policy Development**

Jonathan Thompson presented an overview of the work to date by the Wetland Policy Working Group; copies of his presentation were previously distributed. He reviewed the key actions and timeline for the development of a wetland policy and implementation plan, noting that the intent is to integrate the draft wetland policy for the Green area and the interim policy for the settled area. Alberta Environment began an integrated plan a few years ago, but that work was internal to government and no other stakeholders were involved. The project team would recommend a consultation strategy to the government, but Alberta Environment would provide the logistical and administrative resources for the consultations. The AWC will be well represented on the project team so will have input to consultation design, and Council members would be welcome to attend the consultations. The project team plans to report back to the Council at least three times during the process to give members an opportunity for feedback. The expectation is that the project team co-chairs will play a key role in managing the team and the work.

Council members provided the following comments on the draft terms of reference:

- The wetland policy should support and contribute to all three Water for Life goals.
- The team should plan for two interactions with stakeholders: early in the process to identify and scope the issues, then later to get feedback on the draft policy. Work should also be done to identify who the affected parties are, then the team needs to determine the best way to consult with them. A forum is one approach. Having two phases to the consultation will add at least a couple of months to the timeline.
- Several members felt the proposed team was too large and was dominated by government representatives. Because this will be a provincial government policy, the rationale for having nine provincial government representatives was to ensure that all departments were involved and could support it. Reducing this number puts the onus on the departments to communicate often through a formal mechanism, and for the government members of the team to ensure that feedback from all departments is taken to the discussions.
- The team should thoroughly review all the existing policy and legislation that relates to wetlands to ensure the eventual wetland policy can withstand any court challenges. This is already part of the proposed key actions. It would be prudent to have Alberta Environment's legal staff review the final draft policy to ensure there are no conflicts with other legislation, such as the Municipal Government Act.

**Decision 5.2: By consensus, members approved the draft terms of reference for the Wetland Policy Project Team, with the following additions and changes to the list of key actions:**

- **Submit the final draft policy for review by Alberta Environment's legal team to ensure there are no conflicts with other legislation.**
- **Build in a two-stage consultation process, with the first stage designed to gather input from stakeholders on key issues, and the second stage to get feedback on the draft policy.**

**Action 5.4: The Wetland Policy Project Team will review its proposed membership to a) ensure it reflects an appropriate range of stakeholders, and b) reduce the number of provincial government representatives.**

The following Council members affirmed their interest and/or that of their sector in continuing on with the Wetland Policy Project Team: Lisa King, Margaret Reine, Judy Smith, Jonathan Thompson, and Jim Vollmershausen.

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

Ron Pearson presented the Reporting Working Group's materials in three segments, for Council discussion and approval.

### **a) Draft Terms of Reference for a Reporting Project Team**

The Reporting Working Group met in March and developed draft terms of reference for a team to oversee the production of the two key Council reports for 2005: the first review report on implementation progress of the Water for Life strategy, and the AWC's first annual report.

Council discussed the extent to which all members should be involved in reviewing the implementation report and providing comments, as opposed to the project team drafting the

review report for Council feedback. In the end, all Council members must be satisfied with the review report.

**Decision 5.3: By consensus, the AWC approved the terms of reference for a Reporting Project Team.**

**b) 2004-05 Annual Report**

The annual report will raise the AWC's profile and provide a progress report on work to date. The team hopes to have some material ready for discussion at the June meeting. The budget includes funds to cover the team's expenses for meetings and other work on both reports.

It was suggested that an item be added to the report that examines the Council's performance for the first year – is it doing what the Water for Life strategy says it should do?

**Decision 5.4: By consensus, the Council approved:**

- 1. The draft table of contents for the AWC's 2004-05 annual report, with the addition of a section on the Council's performance**
- 2. The proposed plan for producing the 2004-05 annual report.**

**c) Review Report**

Ron reviewed the proposed table of contents for the review report, and advised that the team expects to prepare a draft prior to the June meeting for review and comment by Council members. Another draft will be prepared for discussion and signoff at the June meeting.

Council members felt the plan was adequate and provided clear links back to the Water for Life strategy. All Council members should be familiar with the content of the government's implementation report, and were encouraged to provide their comments on the current draft. It will not be possible for the first review report to indicate whether objectives have been met or not, since the first deadline is not until 2007. Council could perhaps recommend that for next year, more precision is needed to indicate how far along various activities are in their implementation. This could take various forms, depending on the item; for example, it could be a percent completion, anticipated completion date, dollars expended. This precision also relates to the need for better performance measures. Alberta Environment indicated that it could provide any extra information to members to help answer their questions, whether this information is included in the report or not.

**Action 5.5: Council members will email any comments on the current draft of the implementation progress report by May 16 to Terry.**

**Decision 5.5: By consensus, Council approved:**

- 1. The draft table of contents for the Alberta Water Council's 2005 review report on implementation progress of the Water for Life strategy**
- 2. The proposed plan for producing the review report.**

**8. Water Efficiency and Productivity Working Group**

David Hill provided a short update on the working group's progress, referring members to the report that was circulated with the meeting materials. At its meeting, the group discussed the 30% target, and decided to ask Alberta Environment to provide more details on the

information it has on water availability, demand, and other aspects of water use, as well as a summary of current information on economic instruments. The group is planning to continue as a working group at least for the short term, and report back to Council regularly. By June, it should have a better sense of the direction its members want to take.

During discussion with Council members, the following points emerged:

- The group is struggling with the 30% improvement in efficiency that is referenced in the Water for Life strategy, and wants to focus on things that will lead to improvements, including work on economic instruments. The group is gathering the information it needs and will then decide whether to prepare terms of reference for a project team.
- The intent is not to abandon or confirm the 30% number, but to leave it for now. At some point, the Council will need to discuss whether progress is occurring on efficiency. This is one of several targets in the Water for Life strategy that will prove challenging to quantify and validate; others include Albertans understanding the value of water to the economy and quality of life, and sectors demonstrating best practices and efficiency of water use. Storage is also an issue and is an alternative, like conservation, to ensure Alberta is making productive use of water.
- Some sectors have trouble with the term “conservation,” and it was noted that the group is calling itself the Water Efficiency and Productivity Working Group.

## **9. Other Business**

Members agreed that Council should send a thank you letter to Shell for hosting the field trip, and to Chief Waquan and Minister Boutilier for attending the meeting. Members also requested a list of members of the various working groups and project teams.

**Action 5.6: Peter Watson will send thank you letters on behalf of the Council to Shell, Chief Archie Waquan and Hon. Guy Boutilier.**

**Action 5.7: Terry Sly will email a list of project team and working group members to Council members.**

## **10. Key Points**

The following key messages were proposed and accepted:

1. Water Council members toured the Albian Sands facility and the Muskeg River mine site north of Fort McMurray as part of continuing efforts to improve their understanding of water management issues in Alberta.
2. Environment Minister, Hon. Guy Boutilier, attended the meeting. He congratulated Council members on their work to date, recognizing the important role Council plays in guiding implementation of the Water for Life strategy.
3. Council heard a presentation from the Canada West Foundation on their January 2005 report, *Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth*. Information provided in this report will serve as input to the Council’s work on water efficiency.
4. The Council’s executive led a discussion of the overall strategic direction, with members agreeing on the following seven key areas of focus for Council activities:
  - Wetland policy
  - Water research

- Water efficiency and productivity targets
  - Communications and marketing
  - Supporting work of the WPACs
  - Developing a longer-term strategy and set of priorities
  - Describing Council's stewardship role and what that entails
5. Archie Waquan, Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation spoke to the Council about the water issues facing his community and recommended actions.
  6. Council established two project teams at this meeting. The Wetland Policy Project Team will recommend a wetland policy and implementation plan to the Government of Alberta, based on consultation with Albertans; the policy will contribute significantly to advancing the goals in the Water for Life strategy. The Reporting Project Team will oversee the production of the Council's two key reports for 2005: the first review of the effectiveness, status and progress of the Water for Life Strategy, and the 2004-05 annual report.

### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 23 in Lethbridge, preceded by a tour on June 22, hosted by the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

## **Attachment 1: Meeting #5 Attendees**

### **Council Members**

Bob Barss, Government (Rural)  
Bill Berzins, Non-government Organization (Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils)  
Tom Daniels, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Economic Development Authority)  
Rick Denton, Industry (Forestry)  
David Hill, Industry (Irrigation)  
Mike Kelly, Industry (Power Generation)  
Al Kennedy, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)  
Lisa King, Government (First Nations)  
John Knapp, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development)  
Al Maurer, Government (Large Urban)  
Larry Nolan, Industry (Livestock)  
Ron Pearson, Non-government Organization (Fishery Habitat Conservation)  
Margaret Reine, Non-government Organization (Environmental)  
Judy Smith, Industry (Mining)  
Kevin Stashin, Industry (Oil and Gas)  
Jonathan Thompson, Non-government Organization (Wetland Habitat Conservation)  
Jim Vollmershausen, Government (Environment Canada)  
Peter Watson, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment)  
Jay White, Non-government Organization (Lake Environment Conservation)

### **Observers:**

Ken Ambrock, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Cam Lane, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Kevin McLeod, Alberta Health and Wellness

### **Non-AWC Presenters:**

Archie Waquan, Chief, Mikisew Cree First Nation  
Blair Whenham, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Industry Relations Corporations, Director  
Karen Wilkie, Canada West Foundation

### **Guests:**

Melody Lepine, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Industry Relations Corporations director  
Sherwin Shih, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Environmental Coordinator  
Dawn Waquan, Mikisew Cree First Nation

### **Support Staff:**

Bev Yee	Kate Rich	Terry Sly
Irwin Huberman	Ian Rudland	Kim Sanderson

### **Absent with Regrets:**

Nick Bayliss, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Health and Wellness)  
Joe Miller, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)  
Brad Pickering, Province (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development)  
Richard Quail, Government (Small Urban)  
Linda Van Gastel, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Science and Research Authority)  
Ray Wanuch, Government (Metis Settlements)

**Attachment 2: Meeting #5 Action Item Log**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By when</b>
4.2: Members who have not done so will provide information on the communications and consultation protocols for their sectors to Terry Sly.	Council members	On hold
4.5: (a) Identify existing drinking water program performance measures, for review by the AWC, and (b) propose draft performance measures to address any gaps.	Secretariat, Alberta Environment, Alberta Health and Wellness	AWC Meeting 6 (June 23)
4.7: Provide an interim progress report on the updated water research strategy.	Linda Van Gastel	AWC Meeting 6 (June 23)
5.1: Distribute the revised final minutes for Meeting 4 to Council members.	Terry Sly	May 13, 2005
5.2: Inquire about the precise wording of the question on water pricing for industry and individual citizens and whether the results can be provided to the AWC, and will advise Terry Sly.	Karen Wilkie	May 20, 2005
5.3: Develop a plan, including proposed time frames, for advancing the seven priorities, for discussion at the June Council meeting.	AWC Executive	June 9, 2005
5.4: Review its proposed membership to a) ensure it reflects an appropriate range of stakeholders, and b) reduce the number of provincial government representatives.	Wetland Policy Project Team	June 9, 2005
5.5: Email any comments on the current draft of the implementation progress to Terry	Council members	May 16, 2005
5.6: Send thank you letters on behalf of the Council to Shell, Chief Archie Waquan and Hon. Guy Boutilier.	Peter Watson	May 13, 2005
5.7: Email a list of project team and working group members to Council members.	Terry Sly	May 13, 2005

### **Attachment 3: Meeting #5 Decision Log**

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

Decision 5.1: Members agreed by consensus with the five “tactical” priorities proposed by the executive, and added two strategic items to the list:

- Developing a longer-term strategy and set of priorities for the AWC
- Describing the Council’s stewardship role and what that entails

Decision 5.2: By consensus, members approved the draft terms of reference for the Wetland Policy Project Team, with the following additions and changes to the list of key actions:

- Submit the final draft policy for review by Alberta Environment’s legal team to ensure there are no conflicts with other legislation.
- Build in a two-stage consultation process, with the first stage designed to gather input from stakeholders on key issues, and the second stage to get feedback on the draft policy.

Decision 5.3: By consensus, the AWC approved the terms of reference for a Reporting Project Team.

Decision 5.4: By consensus, the Council approved:

- The draft table of contents for the AWC’s 2004-05 annual report, with the addition of a section on the Council’s performance
- The proposed plan for producing the 2004-05 annual report.

Decision 5.5: By consensus, Council approved:

- The draft table of contents for the Alberta Water Council’s 2005 review report on implementation progress of the Water for Life strategy
- The proposed plan for producing the review report.

**Attachment 4: Meeting #5 Agenda**

**Alberta Water Council**

Agenda, Meeting #5

May 6, 2005

Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, Ft. McMurray

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**Purpose:** Council will hear presentations on and discuss a number of issues including:

- Report from the Council Executive on the results of their meeting on approaches to managing the business of the Council
- Report from the Wetlands Policy working group on a draft terms of reference for a Wetlands Policy Project Team
- Report from the Reporting Working Group on a draft terms of reference for a Reporting Project Team tasked with leading the preparation of Council's first assessment report on implementation progress of the *Water for Life strategy* and its own Annual Report

**8:30 1. Introduction – Chair 30 min**

- a) Review of current agenda
- b) Approval of Summary Report (February 10, 2004 meeting)
- c) Review of actions from last meeting
- d) Asset Mapping
- e) Media, Communication and Outreach Activities

**9:00 2. Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth 30 min**

Karen Wilkie, Canada West Foundation will present the main findings of a recent report titled *Balancing Act: Water Conservation and Economic Growth*. This report is based on two multi-stakeholder consultations held in Alberta that aimed to identify a variety of water conservation policy options to reduce water demand, identify barriers to advancing water conservation, and develop recommendations to overcome the barriers identified.

**9:45 Coffee Break 15 min**

**10:00 3a) Greetings from the Minister – Honourable Guy Boutilier 30 min**

**10:30 3b) Greetings from the Athabasca Tribal Council 30 min**

Members of the delegation will provide their perspective on water.

**11:00 4. Executive Report 1h 30 min**

The Council Executive met in February to discuss approaches to managing the business of the Council. The Secretariat sent members an email dated March 21, supported by a Summary Report, which reflected the Executive discussions and suggested a focus for Council's overall strategic direction. Bill Berzins will review the results of this meeting and lead discussion on the ideas presented.

**12:30 Lunch (to be provided in the room) 45 min**

- 1:15**      **5. Wetlands Policy Development**      *60 min*  
Jonathan Thompson will review the draft terms of reference for a Wetlands Policy Team and lead discussion on the proposal for how the Council would work with the provincial government in developing the wetlands policy.
- Council members will be asked to take afternoon refreshment as discussion proceeds. Refreshments will be brought into the room*
- 2:15**      **6. Council's Reporting Responsibilities**      *1h 30 min*  
Ron Pearson will review and lead discussion on the following:
- a) draft terms of reference for a Reporting Project Team
  - b) draft table of contents for Council's first annual report and a proposed plan for producing the report
  - c) draft table of contents for Council's first review report on the implementation progress of the *Water for Life strategy* and a proposed plan for producing the report
- 3:45**      **7. Water Conservation Working Group**      *10 min*  
David Hill will provide a progress report on the working group's findings.
- 3:55**      **8. Other Business**      *5 min*  
New items of business or other items for information for Council
- 4:00**      **9. 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**