

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #48

June 14, 2018

Federal Building, Edmonton, Alberta

Summary of Discussion

Jay White convened the board meeting at 9:06 a.m. He introduced new staff members Anita Kosowski and Candice Sawchuk. Others present introduced themselves.

1 Administration

1.1 Approve Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda, which was approved by consensus.

1.2 Summary Report from March 29, 2018 Meeting

Decision 48.1: The summary report for the March 29, 2018 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted to the website.

1.3 Action Items from Last Meeting

There were no action items from the last meeting.

1.4 Executive Director's Report

Andre Asselin directed the board to his report in the briefing package. Staff are now fully in place which represents the final piece of the amalgamation of support for the AWC and CASA. Project teams are moving ahead on schedule. Financially AWC is in a good position; expenses will increase now that all staff are hired, but AWC is still expected to be under budget for the year.

In response to a question regarding progress on outreach to First Nations, Andre noted that he has an extensive list of contacts for First Nations and Métis and has met with some First Nations representatives. AWC and CASA will be working together in this outreach. Now that all staff positions are filled, more resources can be dedicated and things should move more quickly.

2 Government of Alberta (GoA) Update

Rick Blackwood provided a GoA update. A summary of his comments will be shared with board members separate from these meeting notes. Among other things, he noted that:

- A number of initiatives related to the Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) have been very successful, including savings related to the retail energy efficiency products program.
- The GoA has announced PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) legislation, which will enable municipalities to allow residents and businesses to make energy efficiency upgrades with the costs recovered through property taxes over time.
- AER has completed the feedback period on draft directives for methane reduction and will be reviewing comments.
- Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) has announced new initiatives for oil sands.

- AEP and Alberta Health Services have developed a water reuse and stormwater use guidebook. AEP is partnering with the City of Calgary to pilot stormwater use.
- A working group has been established in AEP's planning branch to coordinate lake watershed management and planning.
- AEP has released various directives related to water use and management.

Discussion

Q: It seems AEP has begun using "directives," which is the same term AER uses. Is the idea that AEP directives would be rolled into AER directives or will they become policy?

Rick Blackwood (RB): The intent is that they will support each other. We want to ensure that AEP directives are helping to move policy forward. Ronda's shop is in constant contact with AER to help with alignment.

Q: Where are things at with the strategic environmental assessment for Wood Buffalo National Park

RB: Earlier this week Alberta submitted its response to Parks Canada. The package was shared broadly with nearly 40 First Nations that provided input.

Comment: Some ENGOs that have been involved with this issue would also like to see Alberta's response.

Q: Are there any timelines for implementing the PACE legislation?

RB: The fall Cabinet agenda is being finalized now and is very full, so it's hard to say when that will happen.

Q: What is the status of the aggregate review and its impact on waterbodies? AEP released a "What We Heard" report after the consultation process in early 2017 and we have not heard anything since. I would appreciate getting an update on this.

Q: The PACE initiative is focused on energy and renovations to homes or community buildings. Will there be opportunities for water-related initiatives like green roofs, water gardens, etc.?

RB: I don't think it has gone that far. The Auditor General has noted the need for more work on the adaptation component of the CLP; we need to develop a more robust adaptation strategy beyond energy.

Comment: The City of Edmonton is working on the Declaration that came out of the IPCC conference in Edmonton in March. It focuses on the urgent need for cities to move on climate mitigation and adaptation. The Declaration was endorsed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and by a recent conference of mayors in the U.S. It will also be endorsed at an upcoming international conference of municipalities.

3 Process Guidelines Review Process

The AWC's Process Guidelines describe in a general way the roles and responsibilities of the board, teams, and staff. They also identify the practices and procedures that AWC participants are expected to follow. The Guidelines are reviewed every three years to ensure

they remain current, and the review is overseen by the executive committee. Andre spoke briefly to the review process, which will be very similar to those done previously. No gaps have been identified since the last review in 2015 but a few minor wording changes will be proposed. Staff will prepare a first draft for board review over the summer. The board will have two opportunities to provide input and the aim is to have a final draft for approval at the November board meeting.

Discussion

- It would be helpful to think about ways to shorten the overall timelines so we can identify, launch, and complete projects more expeditiously.
- This discussion is likely to happen in relation to future project selection.
- We have to be open to the idea that our governance structure may need to evolve, which could affect the Process Guidelines.
 - After the first round of board review, we will have a better sense if we are looking at major or minor changes and, if necessary, can revise the timelines.

4 Status Reports

The chair directed the board to the project updates in the briefing package.

Discussion

- Climate adaptation was not clearly identified in the Source Water Protection (SWP) project, and I think this should be a component in all our work, with a little sharper focus.
 - The current SWP project is likely to be the first of several projects and we will need to consider how to address climate adaptation.

5 New or Other Business

The AWC's 2017 annual report was circulated to the board and will also be available online shortly. There was no new or other business.

The board meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Attachment 1: Meeting #48 Attendees

AWC Directors and Alternates

Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)
Rick Blackwood, GoA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Environment and
Parks)
Roxane Retzlaff, NGO (WPACs)
Mark Brostrom, Government (Large Urban)
Tom Burton, Government (Rural)
Bob Cameron, NGO (Environmental)
Carolyn Campbell, NGO (Environmental)
Deanna Cottrell, Industry (Oil and Gas)
James Guthrie, Industry (Mining)
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)
Rob Hoffman, Industry (Chemical and
Petrochemical)
Paul McLauchlin, Government (Rural)
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)
Brad Peter, NGO (Lake Environment
Conservation)

Brett Purdy, GoA and Provincial Authorities
(Alberta Innovates)
Margo Jarvis Redelback, Industry
(Irrigation)
Stacey Schorr, GoA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Energy)
Tanya Thorn, Government (Small Urban)
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment
Conservation)
Jamie Wuite, GoA and Provincial
Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and
Forestry)
Andre Asselin, Executive Director (ex-
officio)

Presenters:

Andre Asselin, *Executive Director's Report* (Item 1.4), *Process Guidelines Review Process* (Item 3)
Rick Blackwood, *GoA Update* (Item 2)

Guest:

Jenna Curtis, Alberta Environment and Parks

AWC Staff and Contractors:

Anita Kosowski, Cara McInnis, Douglas Mills, Anuja Ramgoolam, Candice Sawchuk, Marie-Claire St-Jacques, Kim Sanderson

Absent with Regrets:

Dave Burdek, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry)
Darren Calliou, Government (Métis Settlements)
Silvia D'Amelio, NGO (Fisheries Habitat Conservation)
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetlands)

Attachment 2: Meeting #48 Decision Log

Decision 48.1: The summary report for the March 29, 2018 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted to the website.