

Intra-Basin Water Movement Project Team

Terms of Reference

Prepared by the Intra-Basin Water Movement Working Group

CONTEXT:

On January 30, 2007 the Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of Environment, met with the Alberta Water Council and asked Council “...to determine if the current approach on moving water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin is still valid and what, if any, changes should be made to the policy and under what conditions.” in order to address recent concerns with respect to these decisions. The Minister indicated that, if the Council agrees to take on this task, he would like to receive recommendations by the fall.

The project team will operate in a manner that is consistent with the rules, policies and procedures adopted by the Alberta Water Council, including the use of consensus to make decisions in a multi-stakeholder process.

STRATEGIC INTENT (GOAL):

Ensure that recommendations made by the Team to address the Minister’s question fully identify strengths and concerns with the current approach, and reflect a collaborative and integrated recommended approach to managing intra-basin water allocation decisions that involve the movement of water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin.

OBJECTIVES:

To effectively answer the Minister’s question in a recommendation report that:

- Identifies strengths and issues with the current approach,
- Conducts a review of the current approach (in this review, the meaning of “approach” can include decision making processes, practice, regulation, policy, law, administrative guidelines and other matters deemed relevant to the review),
- Discusses what an intra-basin water movement decision making approach should accomplish,
- Makes recommendations to strengthen the approach, and
- Identifies issue areas where consensus cannot be reached.

The Team recognizes that other AWC Teams may be evaluating portions of the same issue. To this end, the Team will coordinate with and refer to other AWC Teams those issues that most closely align to their project’s scope for inclusion in the most relevant project.

KEY TASKS:

- 1) Identify stakeholders and sectors that require meetings to fully explore concerns
- 2) Identify the current approach and issues:
 - a) Outlines current issues and concerns raised in respect to current decisions for intra-basin water movement.

Adopted by Council June 14, 2007

- b) Explores examples of existing intra-basin allocation diversions, their condition, volumes, use, and reasons for the diversion allocation being approved.
 - c) Outlines the current approach governing intra-basin water allocation decisions that involve the movement of water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin, highlighting any potential differences from the approach governing water allocation decisions within a sub-basin.
- 3) Write a recommendations report for the AWC that:
- a) Identifies key principles or considerations, objectives and decision making mechanisms for intra-basin water allocation decisions that involve the movement of water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin.
 - b) Outlines the qualitative analysis of elements of the current approach and its ability to adequately address issues or concerns and key principles or considerations, objectives and decision making mechanisms for intra-basin water movement decisions.
 - c) Makes consensus recommendations for improved approaches.
 - d) Reports on tests of findings, principles and recommendations for change with identified stakeholders.
 - e) Identifies outstanding issues or concerns as necessary.

The Alberta Water Council will make recommendations that will allow the Team to finalize the report, and once approved, the Alberta Water Council will submit the report to the Minister.

TIMELINES and DELIVERABLES:

- Interim report September 17, 2007
- Final report and recommendations November 2007

MEMBERSHIP:

Industrial Sectors: Chemicals/Petrochemicals, Forestry/Pulp and Paper (1 each)
 Municipal Government (1)
 Metis General Council (1)
 Provincial Government (2)
 Federal Government (1)
 Environmental Non-Government organizations (2)

BUDGET:

An estimated budget of \$122,000 is required for fiscal year 2007-08. This includes:

- \$12,000 for a report writer
- \$25,000 for a consultant to arrange and facilitate meetings with concerned stakeholders
- \$20,000 for a consultant to arrange and facilitate First Nations meetings
- \$30,000 for a consultant to host a website to gather concerns for a period of 30 days
- \$10,000 for meetings
- \$25,000 for a consultant to aid in collection of policies, practices, regulations, procedures, laws, and aid in their analysis