



## **Alberta Water Council**

MEETING #64

**October 26, 2023**

**QEII Building, Edmonton & Remote – Teams Conferencing**

### **Executive Summary**

The board received two information presentations, one from Stacey Smythe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regulatory Assurance Division of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) about preparing for potential drought in 2024, and one from Ute Holewegar, Senior Advisor of Water Strategies at the Canada Water Agency (CWA), on the CWA's launch in June 2023.

The board discussed the priorities of the AWC's sectors and how the AWC can contribute to those priorities while also addressing the Council's core businesses. Drought was identified as a key priority for the near-term, and the board decided to strike a committee to support the Government of Alberta (GoA)'s communication efforts around drought conditions, impacts, and management actions. Managing aquatic invasive species (AIS) were also raised as a priority issue, particularly relating to available tools to manage them and the need for sustainable funding. Discussions on medium- and long-term priorities, including potential projects will be discussed further at a later board meeting, including climate change adaptation.

The Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team provided an update and requested conditional approval of their report and communications plan. The team had completed the broad sector review process in October, and revised their recommendations based on the feedback they received. They reviewed the proposed changes and their rationale for the board members, and in the interests of expediting public release of the report, requested conditional approval of the deliverables followed by three weeks to allow sectors to confirm the proposed changes are acceptable. The board approved the request, and final approval of the deliverables and disbandment of the project team will occur via email in three week's time.

An update on the AWC's annual recommendation tracking process was provided, and a summary report had been included in the meeting package.

The board approved the 2024 core budget and operational plan, the 2023-2025 Multi-Year Communications Strategy, and 2024 meeting dates.

Executive officers for GoA and PA and Industry were appointed, with Kasha Piquette and Ahmed Idriss continuing in the roles respectively for two-year terms. Current President Kasha Piquette's was reappointed as President of the AWC for a two-year term ending in the fall of 2025.

The board received a demonstration of a new SharePoint page that had been created to allow board members and alternates easier access to the AWC's documents between meetings.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024, in Edmonton.

## Summary of Discussion

The board meeting was convened at 9:05 a.m.

### 1 Welcome, Health and Safety, and Introductions

#### 1.1 Approve Meeting Agenda

Members were welcomed and the meeting was confirmed to have quorum. Jay White and Ahmed Idriss chaired the meeting. A supplementary package, which included an updated agenda and a decision request from the Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team, was distributed to the board in the week prior to the meeting. The updated agenda was approved by consensus.

*Decision 64.1: The board approved the updated agenda by consensus.*

### 2 Preparations for Possible Drought in 2024

Stacey Smythe, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Regulatory Assurance Division, provided a presentation on preparing for possible drought conditions in 2024. Stacey leads regulation of activities that impact Alberta's environment, including water, across all sectors except oil and gas. The presentation included information on the importance of water in Alberta, the current water situation, the drought risk for the upcoming year, and drought management actions.

Some basins are currently in critical water shortage condition, with some rivers and reservoirs nearly as low as they were leading up to the 2001-2002 drought. The long-range forecast from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is predicting an El Nino winter, which could mean minimal precipitation and snowpack to recharge those rivers and reservoirs. While things can change quickly if there is sufficient snowpack and rain, the GoA is planning for extreme drought.

Drought management is complicated, involving a network of interconnected rivers, water reservoirs and canals, and intakes and outflows. Priority for water use in Alberta is set by license seniority rather than use, and while that can be set aside if an emergency is declared, decisions to prioritize one use over another will impact the economy. Alberta also has an agreement to send 50% of transboundary water flow to Saskatchewan.

Drought management tools increase in intensity, starting with education, information sharing, and voluntary measures, followed by Water Sharing Agreements, and then, if needed, a declaration of emergency under the *Water Act*. Education, information sharing, and voluntary measures occurred in 2023 and the GoA ensured licensees and the public had clear, accurate information on water availability and drought conditions. Water Sharing Agreements are the preferred drought management tool for the GoA and is the next step if drought conditions worsen. There will be a key decision point in March-April 2024 for whether Water Sharing Agreements will be implemented.

There was a request for information on how the AWC can help if a moderate to severe drought occurs in 2024, and for feedback from the sector groups on any other solutions or tools that could be useful to mitigate drought.

## Discussion

- Drought is an important part of the discussion on climate change adaptation. Drought isn't going away, and as the economy transitions to focus on climate change there will be more water demand.
- Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) can convene and collaborate to communicate about drought and get feedback from stakeholders. EPA should engage WPACs on drought; they are anxious to help in any way they can.
  - This will be taken back to EPA; it's very important to use whatever resources we have available.
- **Q:** How do infrastructure projects, such as the Eyremore dam, fit into the discussion on drought?
  - **A:** An Eyremore dam would be a new large onstream flow reservoir on the Bow River. We're missing storage on the Bow River, and the addition of that storage would reduce the demand on the Oldman River.
  - **A:** Storage and infrastructure are included in the minister's mandate letter and is a big consideration for EPA.
- Water is critical, but only becomes a high priority when it isn't available. It's important to work on coordination and keep water top of mind before the situation becomes critical.
- **Q:** Ecosystem base flows also need to be a part of this conversation. How do we get beyond the issue of supply for water uses to a discussion on ecological systems and their water needs?
  - **A:** Balancing environmental needs with other water demands is a big part of the conversation, particularly when we start looking at longer-term solutions. This is the time to start that discussion, to make sure we aren't starting from scratch when there's a crisis.
- **Q:** The water conservation, efficiency, and productivity (CEP) process achieved their 30% improvement goal, but what are the next steps to achieving further improvement?
  - **A:** This is an item the GoA is considering; productivity and conservation are high on their priority list. We can't make more water, so CEP is part of the solution.
- The Alberta Irrigations Districts Association (AIDA) signed a human use and livestock sustenance declaration several years ago, which guarantees that human and livestock needs come ahead of irrigation in times of crisis. Based on how we've managed in the past, we're confident we'll make it work this year with whatever water is available.
  - There are a lot of benefits to that agreement. It signals that large users and senior license holders are thinking about the integrity of the whole system, and it is a good foundation if we get into emergency measures.
- **Q:** To what extent have wetlands been considered for a nature-based contribution to drought mitigation?
  - **A:** Incorporating wetlands and their hydrological functions into drought planning and mitigation is important, particularly in terms of climate adaptation. They can't solve the crisis of today, but they're important to prevent the crisis of tomorrow. There is some work required to make sure it's available for that future crisis, however. There is a balance between development and protecting wetlands, and we need to have that conversation.
- This needs to be a big part of the discussion on AWC's priorities for the next year or two.

- The drought simulation project makes some recommendations that are a valuable part of this discussion. The AWC could also support drought management in other ways, such as through communication campaigns. We need to consider how best the AWC can support the GoA in this.

### 3 Discussion on AWC Priorities

The intent of this agenda item is to start discussions to identify the top priorities for the AWC's sectors and find a path for the AWC to contribute while achieving the AWC's core businesses in the coming years. The Executive Committee members had engaged their sectors prior to the meeting.

The priority issue for the board in the immediate future was identified as drought management and mitigation, and how the AWC can support the GoA's efforts in that area. Climate adaptation to changing water availability should also be on the Council's radar. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) was also raised, as there is a need to improve access to existing tools to combat them as well as for a program to combat them that has a more sustainable funding structure.

As drought was identified as the more pressing need due to current and projected drought conditions in the province, the board decided to strike a committee to support the GoA's communication efforts around drought conditions, impacts, and management. The committee members will engage their sectors to identify gaps or opportunities for drought related messaging and provide feedback on the key messages being developed by the GoA. A Call for Members will be distributed to the board after the meeting.

Discussion on priorities will continue at the February meeting, potentially with more of a focus on medium- and longer-term priorities.

#### Discussion

- We need to ensure we differentiate between short and long-term goals, as the Council doesn't have the capacity to address all issues at once.
- WPACs are hosting workshops on drought for small municipalities who need to address drought planning. Two workshops are scheduled so far, and there will be more. It would be good to coordinate those efforts with those of the GoA and AWC.
- From early in 2023, irrigation districts had to make decisions about rationing their own water users. They've been communicating with their municipalities about this since June.
  - **Q:** Are the municipalities in turn communicating with their residents who are rationing?
    - **A:** Cities like Calgary have taken a proactive approach about water and have been taking water rationing measures within their boundaries. However, it depends on the capacity of the individual municipality. The WPACs have a direct link to residents, and we should support their efforts.
- A broad, sweeping communication plan that targets a variety of audiences is needed, and it should include water users where capacity may otherwise be lacking, such as small municipalities. Some audiences have proven difficult to reach, such as recreational water users.
  - The AWC has connections that could potentially be leveraged to reach some of those audiences, but recreation groups may need to be targeted directly.

- The vision of the AWC is to work together to ensure healthy, safe, and abundant water for future generations. There is a story to tell here through education and having the right conversations. The GoA is wrestling with the legal and policy side, but it is a complex problem and there can be shared ownership of that with a significant role for the AWC in advancing the conversations that need to happen.
- The AWC can also help support policy development, and its role there shouldn't be overlooked. We can help ensure a broader spectrum of people are involved.
- **Q:** Are we looking at lessons learned about drought from other jurisdictions?
  - **A:** There are a few models we can work from on how previous droughts were handled, but the culture of the area drives many of the policy decisions around drought.
- **Q:** We have an imminent challenge around drought, and we should focus on that first before considering longer-term work. Is there anything the AWC can do right away in that space, given that the project process we use can sometimes take a while?
  - **A:** Communication. The GoA needs to know if there are audiences or messages that are being missed. The government has a responsibility to communicate, but we could leverage the AWC's existing networks and communication systems to get the messaging out in different ways.
    - The AWC could start a committee to support the conversation around drought as it evolves and serve as a point of contact for the GoA. There are capacity concerns for board members, so what that group is responsible for would need to be well considered. The committee could be a sounding board for existing messages rather than creating the messaging themselves.
    - There are lessons from previous water conversations that could be applied to this topic. Water literacy is important, and we should build on it. Messaging should also be consistent.
    - Much of what we talk about is provincial in nature, and different tools might be needed for different areas, such as sub-basins or individual sectors.
    - Drought messaging can have unintentional consequences; for example, Cochrane residents were asked to voluntarily use less water, and it resulted in a much bigger water use day than is typical.
- The EPA's mandate letter talks about the need to increase the availability of water while maintaining the highest standards of water conservation. EPA is working on what that means and how to proceed and are looking at water infrastructure opportunities, regulatory improvements, data availability, and measures to improve CEP so we can take better advantage of the resources we have. We are thinking about how to operationalize those things, but the conversations are just beginning.
  - Regarding further improvements to CEP, many sectors have reached a point of diminishing returns, and the available technology doesn't allow for significant improvements for most sectors.
  - The next big gain in CEP might require research and development.
- Another issue the AWC could consider is AIS. Things like cyanobacterial blooms are becoming more frequent, but we have challenges accessing tools that have proven useful in other places. We need to expand our toolkit.
  - AIS is important for the irrigation sector as well. There have been cuts to the inspections and enforcement programs, resulting in shuttered inspection stations. There are many AIS programs, and there may be lessons from other jurisdictions

across North America that could help inform a program in Alberta that has more sustainable long-term funding.

***Decision 64.2: The board decided by consensus to form a committee where members will engage their sector groups to support the GoA's drought communication efforts.***

**Action 64.1: AWC staff to send a call for members for a drought communication committee to the board.**

#### **4 Canada Water Agency Update**

Ute Holewegar, the Senior Advisor of Water Strategies at the Canada Water Agency (CWA), joined the meeting remotely and provided a presentation on the launch of the CWA and its role in freshwater management in Canada.

Speeches from the Throne and mandate letters at the federal level have committed to creating the CWA and implementing a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan (FAP). Those commitments were driven by knowledge that floods, droughts, degraded water quality, and freshwater ecosystem health have significant impacts on the economy, human health, public safety, and the environment and are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Starting in 2020, Canadians were engaged on opportunities to improve freshwater management in Canada, and potential roles for the CWA. There was support for the CWA, and a need for action and for engagement of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples were key takeaways from the engagement.

The Government of Canada's 2023 budget provided funding to create the CWA, implement a strengthened FAP, and modernize the *Canada Water Act*.

The CWA was established as a branch within the ECCC in June 2023, and the Government of Canada has committed to introducing legislation to administratively transition the CWA from the ECCC to a standalone agency. The functions of the CWA include providing freshwater policy leadership, provide a coordinated federal perspective on freshwater, address fragmentation of freshwater responsibilities, engage First Nations, Metis, and Inuit, strengthen freshwater science, improving freshwater data management and access, lead delivery of the Freshwater Ecosystem Initiatives (FEIs), and advancing the modernization of the *Canada Water Act*.

The presentation included information on FEIs and the management tools and techniques being used, with detailed information on the Lake Winnipeg FEI provided as an example. There was also a description of collaboration on transboundary waters, and the ongoing support for longstanding transboundary water governance agreements, both domestic and binational.

#### Discussion

- **Q:** What does freshwater data management look like?
  - **A:** We're working with DataStream to add data that ECCC has into the portal, and we have also provided funding to them. There are other data sources out there as well, and our Chief Data Officer will have to determine how to collaborate and ensure good interoperability and access to the data.
- **Q:** What is the CWA's governance structure? How are decisions made?

- **A:** Right now, there is an acting ADM who is providing oversight and leadership to the branch. As the CWA transitions to a standalone agency, there will be a president hired and it will have a similar governance structure to other federal agencies. There will be an advisory committee or a board, but those elements are still being determined. The CWA will also have a role in coordination, and we are looking at mechanisms to formalize those arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with ECCC's Science and Technology Branch, the Meteorological Service of Canada, Agriculture Canada, and others. There will also be collaboration with provinces, territories, and Indigenous groups.
- **Q:** In Alberta, many of the collaborative processes and groups are well established, and gaps in data and modelling are needed to make land-use decisions. Have you considered how the CWA will support filling those gaps, when the collaboration piece is already present?
  - **A:** Some of those functions may evolve over time, however there will be budget limitations. This is an area we will have to look at further. The CWA isn't meant to duplicate or add extra layers of complexity onto the existing collaboration processes and will respect existing mechanisms like those in place in Alberta.
- **Q:** There are provincial groups, like the AWC and WPACs, which have a seat for a federal representative that is often vacant. Is there an opportunity for the CWA to provide a contact for those seats?
  - **A:** There are opportunities for the CWA to sit on some boards, but it will be challenging to determine which, specifically. For now, if there are questions, you can reach me directly [Ute.Holweger@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Ute.Holweger@ec.gc.ca) or reach out to Nadine Stiller, the Executive Director for the Freshwater Management Directorate within the CWA. She can be reached at [Nadine.stiller@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Nadine.stiller@ec.gc.ca).
- **Q:** In Alberta, there has been a lot of focus on Indigenous rights in the context of treaties, and how Indigenous interests can effectively be incorporated into governments and other organizations' work. Does the CWA have a path for that?
  - **A:** Right now, the *Canada Water Act* doesn't provide an opportunity for us to enter formal arrangements with Indigenous partners, and that's a limitation. The Assembly of First Nations has put forward a position with respect to the CWA, so we are working with them at a national level to address their issues and concerns. There are also things to investigate at the regional level, such as how Indigenous people are involved in decision-making from a water and land rights perspective. We don't have solutions at this point, but we started the dialogue through the CWA's engagement process and plan to continue it going forward.
- **Q:** Will Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the CWA interact? If so, how?
  - **A:** The CWA has worked with DFO historically through an MOU for the CWA to support their work, and DFO is part of our steering committee. We anticipate that collaboration will continue.
- **Q:** Does the CWA have a role regarding aquatic invasive species?
  - **A:** That will be location dependent. In some cases, it is provincial jurisdiction, such as when monitoring watercraft vessels between provinces. However, it could come into play for **FEIs**.
- **Q:** What is the relationship between the CWA and the Water Survey of Canada?
  - **A:** The Water Survey of Canada will continue to be part of the Meteorological Service of Canada, and the CWA will continue to have arrangements in place with them to support our efforts on FEIs.

## 5 Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team

The project team co-chairs, Nicole Pysh of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, and Pamela Duncan, from the City of Calgary, provided a presentation on the project team's progress and the final report and recommendations.

The broad sector review on the project's recommendations was completed in late September, and the project team has since met to address the feedback and revise the final report accordingly. The updated recommendations, along with the rationale for the changes, was provided in a summary table which was distributed to the board the week prior to the meeting. The co-chairs also reviewed these changes during their presentation.

The project team hopes to expedite approval of the final report so that it can be released by the end of the year. To that end, they are requesting the board conditionally approve the final report and recommendations, followed by a three-week period where board members can confirm the updated recommendations with their sectors before providing final approval.

### Discussion

- **Q:** Did the project team have adequate time to deliberate over the proposed changes to the recommendations?
  - **A:** Yes. The project team discussed the changes during a meeting and were largely in agreement with the proposed changes.
- **Q:** Recommendation 7, which is about communicating the impacts of drought, has been removed. Impacts of drought should be communicated to the public, so is this still being adequately addressed?
  - **A:** The team acknowledged a need to communicate to the public about drought and its impacts, but as a stand-alone recommendation it would be a large undertaking with significant cost. In some respects, we already know the impacts of multi-year drought and perhaps just need to communicate it better. Recommendation 2 and Recommendation 6 both contain aspects of this through drought planning and a feasibility study, respectively, which should take environmental, economic, and social factors into account.
    - If you're doing an assessment of drought impacts as you go, the information may be incomplete. Hopefully when we enter a drought, we will already know the impacts of the decisions being made.

***Decision 64.3: The board conditionally approved the final report and recommendations and communications plan for the Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team, pending sector confirmation of the updated recommendations and final approval via email.***

**Action 64.2: Staff to send an email to the board outlining the process for final approval of the drought simulation project's deliverables, including a three-week period for sector engagement followed by an online decision.**



## **6 AWC Recommendation Tracking Update**

The AWC undertakes a recommendation tracking process annually, and staff have reached out to recommendation implementers over the past few weeks for updates on recommendation implementation. An update report was included in the meeting package, and Anuja Hoddinott provided a presentation including background on the recommendation tracking process and a summary of the update. All supporting documents are available on the AWC's website.

## **7 Administration**

### **7.1 Approve Summary Report from June 15, 2023**

No edits to the summary were submitted to the staff prior to the meeting.

*Decision 64.4: The board approved the summary report from the June 15, 2023, meeting by consensus.*

### **7.2 Review Actions from June 15, 2023**

There was one action resulting from the June 2023 board meeting, and a written update was included in the meeting package.

### **7.3 Approve the 2024 Core Budget**

Each year, the board is required to approve the budget for the upcoming year. The proposed budget for 2024 along with several assumptions were included in the briefing package. Andre Asselin reviewed the budget for the board members and explained the assumptions made.

#### Discussion

- **Q:** Are you comfortable with the 2024 budget, as the Executive Director?
  - **A:** Yes. This budget reflects the changes that we have observed associated with moving to a more hybrid work style with our members and updates some of the line items to align with areas of focus for the coming year. There is enough flexibility in the budget to allow us to take on work if there are emerging issues. There is also some room built into items such as the legal budget, given we are anticipating taking on a large contract for the SWP project, and may need additional legal support.

*Decision 64.5: The board approved the 2024 core budget by consensus.*

### **7.4 Approve the 2024 Operational Plan**

Each year, the executive committee (EC) drafts an operational plan for the upcoming year based on existing workloads, sector capacity, and priority work the AWC needs to be ready to address. The draft operational plan was included in the meeting package, and the EC recommends the board approve it.

Andre noted that the operational plan can sometimes change as work progresses through the year, and that updates are provided at each board meeting. For example, the drought communication committee that the board struck today will be incorporated into the first update.

*Decision 64.6: The board approved the 2024 Operational Plan by consensus.*

### **7.5 Approve the draft AWC's 2023 – 2025 Multi-Year Communications Strategy**

In fall 2022, the EC was tasked with leading a process to revise the AWC's Multi-Year Communications Strategy. Through information obtained from a scan of existing practices and survey responses from AWC members, several areas for improvement were identified and incorporated into the revised draft. The revised draft was included in the meeting package.

***Decision 64.7: The board approved the AWC's 2023-2025 Multi-Year Communications Strategy by consensus.***

#### **7.6 Appoint Executive Officers – GoA and PA and Industry**

The current term for the executive officers for the GoA and PA and Industry sector groups are expiring as of the end of the current meeting. Executive officers should be identified for each of those sectors. The current executive officers, Kasha Piquette for GoA and PA and Ahmed Idriss for Industry, have been engaging their sectors on this item.

Kasha Piquette will continue as the executive officer for GoA and PA on the Executive Committee (EC), though will be represented by Assistant Deputy Minister Jamie Curran at the EC meetings.

Ahmed Idriss will continue as the executive officer for Industry on the EC.

#### **7.7 Announce the President**

The AWC's President is chosen from among the AWC's EC members, and the other three members are Vice-Presidents. As the term for the GoA and PA executive member expired at this board meeting, the Presidency is subsequently up for renewal.

The AWC's current President is Deputy Minister Kasha Piquette with GoA and PA, and DM Piquette has confirmed her intent to continue in this role. The Executive Committee has discussed this issue and DM Piquette was reappointed as the AWC President until the end of term in 2025.

#### **7.8 Approve the AWC's 2024 Board Meeting Dates**

Staff have consulted the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for their availabilities, and the proposed dates included in the meeting package are in alignment with their availability. The EC has also reviewed the dates and supports the proposed meeting schedule.

***Decision 64.8: The board approved the 2024 board meeting dates by consensus.***

#### **7.9 AWC Board Members SharePoint Demonstration**

A SharePoint page for the AWC Board has been created for board members to use as a central information hub where information relevant to board meetings, project teams, and other topics are accessible. Prior to the meeting, board members and alternates were invited to join the SharePoint.

Katie Duffett provided a brief demonstration of the SharePoint and its contents. The SharePoint page is meant to make information more easily accessible between board meetings, but it does not replace the traditional methods of communication the board uses, such as emails and the AWC website. The SharePoint page contains information on upcoming events, report releases,

board membership, sector profiles and updates, board orientation materials, and information on project teams.

Board members were asked to submit any feedback on the SharePoint to Katie via email, at [kduffett@awc-casa.ca](mailto:kduffett@awc-casa.ca).

## **8 Information Reports and Opportunity for Questions**

### **8.1 Executive director's report**

This report was included in the board package.

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

The Government of Alberta (GoA) update was included in the board package.

#### Discussion

- The GoA updates cover a lot of information and are very much appreciated.

### **8.3 Sector updates**

To improve AWC's external communication actions and generate awareness of sector activities, staff have started a practice of collecting sector updates ahead of each board meeting to share with members and partners. The document was shared via Google Drive prior to the meeting.

#### Discussion

- Some industry members have difficulty using Google Drive due to security issues. Can we post these to SharePoint?

**Action 64.3: The AWC sector profiles and updates will be added to the SharePoint site.**

### **8.4 *Water for Life* Action Plan Project Update**

An information report on the status of the project team was included in the board package.

#### Discussion

- **Q:** Drought is a high priority issue for everyone. Several years ago, the *Water for Life* Implementation Review Committee recommended that a new *Water for Life* Action Plan be put together. There had been a lot of work on it, but it ground to a halt about a year ago and there has been little information since. What's the plan for this project team?
  - **A:** Since that team was started, there have been several different EPA Ministers, an election cycle, and changing mandates. EPA's mandate letter is clear about its priorities. The principles of *Water for Life* are still relevant, including collaboration, adaptability, and improving the system. But the circumstances have changed, and EPA is now looking to align efforts with their mandate letter, so a new approach is needed. There is a need to reconcile the work in the Action Plan with the mandate letter so it can be moved forward.
- The work is on pause but isn't stopped. We will need to wait for direction from the current Ministers before work resumes.

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

An information report on the status of the project team was included in the board package.

### **8.6 Update on Clean Air Strategic Alliance Projects**

An information report on CASA's current projects was included in the board package.

#### **Other Business**

- Evaluation forms will be sent to the board electronically following the meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024, in Edmonton at the QEII Building.

The board meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

## **Attachment 1: Meeting #64 Attendees**

### **In Attendance**

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

Ahmed Idriss, Industry (Power Generation)  
Alan Corbett, NGO (WPACs)  
Brian Deheer, NGO (Environmental)  
Dan Moore, Industry (Forestry)  
Deanna Cottrell, Industry (Oil & Gas)  
Jamie Curran, 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)

Kris Samraj, Government (Small Urban)  
Margo Jarvis Redelback, Industry (Irrigation)  
Nancy Mackay, Government (Large Urban)  
Rawnald Axelson, Industry (Livestock)  
Reg Warkentin, Industry (Cropping)  
Rob Hoffman, Industry (Chemical and  
Petrochemical)  
Rob van Diemen, Industry (Livestock)  
Ruth Mitchell, GoA and Provincial  
Authorities (Alberta Health)  
Steph Neufeld, NGO (Lake Environment  
Conservation)  
Steve Meadows, NGO (WPACs)  
Andre Asselin, Executive Director (ex-  
officio)

#### **Guests:**

Bart Muuse, NGO (Wetland Conservation)  
Kallie Wischoff, Government (Rural)

#### **Presenters:**

Nicole Pysh, Environment and Protected Areas (Item 5.0)  
Pamela Duncan, City of Calgary (Item 5.0)  
Roger Ramcharita, Environment and Protected Areas (Item 2.0)  
Stacey Smythe, Environment and Protected Areas (Item 2.0)  
Ute Holweger, Canada Water Agency (Item 3.0)

#### **Observers:**

Curt Horning, Environment and Protected  
Areas (EPA)  
Jaclyn Schmidt, EPA  
Joey Hurley, EPA

Marilea Pattison-Perry, EPA  
Martina Krieger, EPA  
Wendy Birch, EPA

#### **AWC Staff:**

Alec Carrigy, Katie Duffett, Anuja Hoddinott, Mariem Oloroso

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

Amber Link, Government (Rural)  
Brett Purdy, GoA and Provincial Authorities  
(Science and Research)  
Darren Calliou, Government (Métis  
Settlements)  
John Conrad, GoA and Provincial Authorities  
(Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation)  
Kai Horsfield, Industry (Chemical)

Kasha Piquette, GoA and Provincial  
Authorities (Environment and Protected  
Areas)  
Lesley Peterson, NGO (Fisheries Habitat  
Conservation)  
Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)  
Nevin Rosaasen, Industry (Cropping)  
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetlands Conservation)

## **Attachment 2: Meeting #64 Decision Log and Action Items**

### **Decisions**

*Decision 64.1: The board approved the updated agenda by consensus.*

*Decision 64.2: The board decided by consensus to form a committee where members will engage their sector groups to support the GoA's drought communication efforts.*

*Decision 64.3: The board conditionally approved the final report and recommendations and communications plan for the Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team, pending sector confirmation of the updated recommendations and final approval via email.*

*Decision 64.4: The board approved the summary report from the June 15, 2023 meeting by consensus.*

*Decision 64.5: The board approved the 2024 core budget by consensus.*

*Decision 64.6: The board approved the 2024 Operational Plan by consensus.*

*Decision 64.7: The board approved the AWC's 2023-2025 Multi-Year Communications Strategy by consensus.*

*Decision 64.8: The board approved the 2024 board meeting dates by consensus.*

### **Action Items**

**Action 64.1: AWC staff to send a call for members for a drought communication committee to the board.**

**Action 64.2: Staff to send an email to the board outlining the process for final approval of the drought simulation project's deliverables, including a three-week time period for sector engagement followed by an online decision.**

**Action 64.3: The AWC sector profiles and updates will be added to the SharePoint site.**