

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #41

March 19, 2015

McDougall Centre, Calgary

Executive Summary

The board welcomed Deanna Cottrell as the new director representing the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Rob Hoffman as the new director for the Canadian Fuels Association, Chris Ward as the new director for the City of Edmonton, Silvia D'Amelio as the new director for Trout Unlimited Canada, and Lorna Young as the new alternate director for the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada.

The Government of Alberta provided an update to the board, focusing on the recently signed bilateral transboundary agreement with the Northwest Territories on the Mackenzie River, the tailings management framework, the Water Conversation Action Plan update, and minor updates on other items.

The board was also very pleased to hear two informational presentations. Jay Nagendran, Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Agency, provided an overview of AEMERA's activities as a new organization, and Justin Riemer, Assistant Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Innovation Division of Innovation and Advanced Education presented the Alberta Water Research and Innovation Strategy.

The board agreed to amend the terms of reference for the Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team as well as the Water Literacy Project Team. The 2015 Operational Plan was also approved.

An update on the implementation progress of Council recommendations was provided.

The next board meeting will be June 18, 2015 in Edmonton.

Summary of Discussion

The general board meeting was convened by Bill Werry at 9:20 am, immediately following the AGM.

1 Administration

1.1 Approve Agenda

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

1.2 Summary Report from October 30, 2014 Meeting

Decision 41.1: The summary report for the October 30, 2014 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the AWC website.

1.3 Action Items from October 30, 2014 Meeting

There were no action items from the last meeting.

1.4 Assign Signing Authority

Decision 41.2: The Board designated Anuja Ramgoolam as a financial signing authority for the Alberta Water Council, allowing Anuja to co-sign cheques up to and including \$25,000.

1.5 Management Report

Gord Edwards referred the board to the management report in the briefing package. He noted that staff are quite busy and that an offer has been made to a new project manager who is expected to start in April. Staff met with ESRD to ensure alignment between the current initiatives in GoA and the next *Water for Life* Implementation Review, which is set to start in June. AWC currently has enough funds to last until the end of May 2015. Early indications for this year show that we are on track to be under the 2015 budget of \$946,000. Staff were informed that \$150,000 in bridge funding for core operations, as well as some project funding, will be provided by the GoA until the 2015–2016 core grant application is considered. The process guidelines will be reviewed this year, though no major changes are expected following a significant review in 2012. Gord noted that board member Tracy Scott and the Council's financial administrator Sunny Yeung have been experiencing health challenges but are doing well and thank everyone for the support and good wishes they've received. Gord then responded to questions from the board.

Q: How are we looking staffing wise for the next year?

A: Pretty good. We've recruited one project manager, and may recruit another later in the year or early 2016. We are leaning heavily on Petra Rowell, a contract project manager, for support at the moment.

Q: Does the executive have a policy in terms of emergency funding?

A: The \$565,000 remaining in the financial statements includes the \$200,000 wind down fund. The fund can be used to cover the bills and severance should we have to wind down.

Q: Do you have any financial reserves that will allow you to operate for a period of time rather than wind down?

A: We stay in close communication with our GoA liaisons to ensure our financial situation is well known. The \$150,000 bridge funding that we are expecting soon will cover any gap until our 2015–2016 core operations grant is considered.

2 Government of Alberta (GoA) Update

Bill Werry provided an update to the board on behalf of the GoA, focusing on items of particular interest to the AWC. He noted that due to the economic climate, he's constrained on answering financially related questions at this time. His remarks are reflected below along with the question and answer segments for each of the topics covered.

1. **Bilateral Agreement on the Mackenzie River**

Alberta and the Northwest Territories recently signed a bilateral transboundary agreement on the Mackenzie River, which has been under negotiation for some time. Canadian Press reports that there is high praise for this agreement from the academic world, with the McMaster University Water Chair calling it "the most innovative and effective agreement between two jurisdictions they've ever seen". This also bodes well for the health of the Mackenzie, Slave and Athabasca Rivers. This will hopefully help with bilateral negotiations with British Columbia and also Saskatchewan. Bill credited Rick Blackwood and his team for their work on this item. The agreement will be available on the ESRD website:

<http://esrd.alberta.ca/water/education-guidelines/mackenzie-river-basin-bilateral-water-management-agreements.aspx>

2. **Tailings Management Framework**

A tailings management framework for the oilsands received positive reviews from the Pembina Institute. There is more work to be done by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on how the framework will be regulated but the document sets limits on the size of tailings ponds in the oilsands. ESRD also released the surface water quantity management framework for the Athabasca River that will restrict the amount of water that can be withdrawn in the interest of protecting healthy aquatic ecosystems. These two major pieces have been worked on for some time.

3. **Continuing work on the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS)**

ESRD is continuing to work with GoA, AER and the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA) on the mechanism of IRMS. The group of deputies and CEOs Bill chairs are reviewing the way in which multi-stakeholder organizations are engaged, particularly through the regional plans. With the Lower Athabasca being the first completed regional plan, they are investigating how stakeholders can continue to provide advice on the management actions. They have reviewed the Cumulative Environmental Management Association and continue to look at how multi-stakeholder groups can advise the government. This review has implications for provincial groups like AWC and CASA. ESRD will keep the board informed over the next year.

4. **Water Conversation Action Plan**

The Water Conversation Action Plan was released, and contains more than 20 actions that focus on healthy lakes, hydraulic fracturing, drinking water and wastewater, and water management. The GoA is beginning to move on those actions.

5. **Other news**

The North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Committee process is underway, and they hope to have a plan ready this year. A water conservation policy for upstream oil and gas was recently released, which is updated from 2006. A guide on watershed management planning is complete, and a reference copy is available. GoA continues to be interested in the work of the AWC in the areas of water conservation, efficiency and productivity, as well as water reuse.

Discussion

Bill then responded to questions from board members:

Q: The Water for Life Action Plan of 2009 included a number of actions important to aquatic ecosystem health to be completed by 2015. Does the Water Conversation Action Plan replace those commitments?

Bill Werry (BW): The Water Conversation Action Plan does not replace the previous WFL Action Plan, and we think it's aligned with the original WFL strategy. We are committed to updating the WFL strategy; that process will start in 2015 and we expect it to be complete in 2016. We have also introduced legislation to address threats of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to the province, which aligns with concerns expressed by some about the health of lakes.

Q: Do you have an idea of when the regulations pertaining to development in floodways will come forward?

BW: We're working closely with Municipal Affairs on a number of fronts. Right now there are policy issues in flood ways and flood fringes, and we need to consider the impact of mitigation on each of those things. We'll probably see something in the fall. This is also tied up with the *Municipal Government Act* review.

Q: How do you see the AWC fitting in with some of the work ESRD has going forward?

BW: My update was focused on the work of ESRD. AWC is an excellent partnership, and our close ties help us receive vital input for all of those pieces. The Water Conversation Action Plan has a number of initiatives that we are working with the AWC to move forward. I think you'll see during the review of the operational plan that AWC is supporting the needs of the GoA.

Q: Why is the proposed legislation about AIS coming forward in the Legislature prior to the team's work being complete?

BW: There has been a lot of work on AIS for a few years now, and the potential impact of infestation is part of what's driven the GoA to act on this risk. The legislation is focused on a clear aspect of AIS management: preventing species from coming into the province.

Q: Concerns were raised at the AAMDC conference about the timelines tied to a request we received to collect input from our members on water quality reviews. Can you comment on that?

BW: We're always looking for the balance between taking input and taking action, and we have a sense of urgency on drinking water and waste water. My apologies if it felt rushed, but this is something the GoA is trying to move forward on quickly.

3 Operational Plan

Andre Asselin presented the 2015 Operational Plan. He reviewed the work now underway and the projects planned for 2015. Two projects will be seeking extensions today, and start times for new work are a result of a decision to delay starting this work last year. There is no staff capacity to take on any unplanned work at this time. Staff are cognizant of sectors' challenge to provide project funds in this economic climate.

Discussion

The following points were made:

Comment: The workload for 2015 is quite heavy, so it's important to balance both staff capacity and sectors' ability to contribute to these important initiatives.

Q: The timing for the CEP team seems a bit off. Will the team have the numbers needed for reporting or should it be pushed back?

Andre Asselin: The thinking last year was that starting the next CEP team should be delayed until 2015 data are available sometime in 2016. However, the working group can get an idea of what data are available from 2014 to inform the development of project team terms of reference in 2015. This is all up for discussion at the working group table.

Decision 41.3: The board approved the 2015 Operational Plan as presented by consensus.

4 Process Guidelines

Andre Asselin delivered a presentation on the review of the AWC's Process Guidelines. Reviewing the process guidelines on a three-year cycle ensures operational documents are kept up to date. The executive committee leads the review with support from staff, and board members will have two opportunities to provide input. The first draft will be sent to the board by June 1, with a first round of input being submitted by July 20th. Staff will incorporate the input into a second draft which will be distributed on July 27th. Final input will be requested by September 10th to be reviewed by the executive committee prior to coming to the board for approval in October.

5 Water Literacy Project Team

Sharina Kennedy and Deanna Cottrell updated the board on the Water Literacy team's work to date, reminding the board of the background and objectives of this project. The team has completed two of its objectives, and is proposing a path to complete the third objective. An inventory of current water education and literacy programs in Alberta has been completed, and from that, some approaches that have successfully increased water literacy or awareness were compiled. They found that NGOs, WPACs and municipalities deliver most of the programs, and the target audience is typically school children. The most noticeable gaps are around the content of the information that is available (e.g., nothing on fracking or water allocation being delivered by public entities), audiences (the general public and aboriginal audiences in particular), and geography (most education is happening in large urban centers). The team found that common elements to successful programs are: a dedicated plan or framework to guide the program; clear deliverables; and having a strong understanding of their target audience's needs.

The team was instructed in October to return at this meeting to clarify the team's potential work to assess Albertans' level of water literacy and present a solid budget with funding sources identified. The proposed amendments to the terms of reference reflect that a \$30,000 grant from ESRD will enable the team to engage a social science researcher to help it validate a water literacy assessment tool they have drafted, and develop a delivery plan to assess a sample of Albertans to inform the team's work.

Discussion

Sharina and Deanna answered questions from the board:

Q: Can you remind me about the original intent of this project? What will ESRD do with that input?

Sharina Kennedy (SK): It's to help us set our priorities in advancing water literacy in Alberta. This work will provide us with a better idea of what the knowledge levels, skills, and current

attitudes of Albertans are so we can work with our partners to deliver better water literacy activities.

Q: Any thought on how you're going to sample Albertans?

SK: There are many considerations to do this effectively and we need an expert social scientist to help us with this. The goal is to get a valid tool and representative sample of Albertans that we can revisit to assess improvement.

Q: Early on in this team's work, the client was anxious that this work be done soon. Are the new timelines acceptable?

SK: Yes. ESRD has been working on an interim water literacy strategy, but we didn't understand how massive this project could be. We can wait for the results of this project to inform the full strategy.

Q: When we talk about sampling Albertans, there are many types of significant water users. Will this work for them as well as average Albertans?

Deanna Cottrell (DC): The goal is to get a sample of representative Albertans, and industries and municipalities won't be excluded. Once we have the tool validated, there's no reason it couldn't be applied to them as well. We are counting on the experts' advice.

Q: Can you change the verb tense of the first words of the bullets in the "Objectives" section to make it in the present tense?

DC: Yes we can.

Comment: It's important to introduce some level of randomness and stratification in the sample to ensure the results can be extrapolated to a larger group. This is typically not done very well. I think hiring an expert is a good idea.

Q: So right now we're looking at the initial assessment to get the baseline data. Is the expectation to revisit to show improvement?

DC: That's the goal. This will need to be an iterative process as we don't have the resources to assess all of Alberta at one time; the intent is to get a baseline to improve on.

Decision 41.4: The board approved the proposed amendments to the terms of reference, along with changing the verb tense in the "Objectives" section to be in the present tense, by consensus.

6 Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team

Jay White provided an update on the team's work and reviewed the team's objectives. He noted that Alberta has come a very long way in two short years, including having full time staff working on this issue and recently introducing legislation to prevent threats from entering Alberta. Jay provided some context around the issue of AIS for the benefit of new board members. Since June 2013, the team has completed three of its objectives: they have determined that this team does not need to develop a definition of AIS as current policy work within GoA should be responsible for this; the state of AIS management in Alberta has been documented via a stakeholder survey and interviews; and approaches to AIS management in other jurisdictions has been documented via a jurisdictional review that was undertaken by a consultant the team engaged.

The team's work was delayed for five months in 2014 as they waited to receive funds to hire the consultant. Although they tried to accelerate the timelines to completion, they need more time to

finish their report and recommendations. The team thinks it can complete the final two objectives by October 2015, and is asking the board to approve this extension.

Discussion

Jay and others answered questions from the board:

Q: Bill 13 has passed 2nd reading; what's your opinion on the legislation?

Jay White (JW): There are a lot of policy gaps in AIS management in Alberta right now, but this is a great first step. Putting certain species that pose a threat on prohibited lists will really help, but we need federal legislation changes too. There is still a lot to do.

Q: Are the inspections only at federal crossings? Are there provincial stations as well?

JW: The highest risk is typically from the US, but yes, there will be provincial stations at Vermillion, Dunmore, Cardston, and the Crowsnest Pass from BC, as well as Coutts at the US border and a few others.

Bill Werry: When the bill passes, GoA will have the authority to undertake a broader array of inspections. Snowbirds from the south are the biggest threat. We have also had senior level discussions with Saskatchewan, Manitoba and BC. We're hustling to catch up to Ontario. We also participate in discussions with the Pacific North West Ministers of the Environment with Washington, Oregon, Alaska, BC, and representatives from Environment Canada and the US Environmental Protection Agency to ensure coordination. Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) has adjusted their practices and we expect that will continue. I can't understate the importance of AWC's work in this area. There was no pushback on this legislation.

Q: Are there training programs for people who are interested in knowing what they can do?

JW: Training started two years ago. Project team co-chair Kate Wilson spends much of her time educating and training CBSA, municipal staff, ag fieldmen and others around the province.

Bill Werry: We also had a pilot program with sniffer dogs to help with the inspection process.

Comment: Alberta Irrigation Project Association co-funds the sniffer dogs program. Dogs are faster than people at doing inspections.

Q: Will trained municipal experts become involved?

Bill Werry: We've been working with Alberta Summer Villages Association and people are very interested in helping. Bill 13 allows us to give them a bit more authority to do what they need to.

Q: In addition to risk to infrastructure, will preventing AIS also protect species at risk?

JW: There's room for it. AIS can not only hurt existing species, they can create water quality issues too.

Comment: A member of the AIS team sits on the GoA's Endangered Species Committee and AIS has not been discussed.

Q: Does the legislation cover inspections on sailboards, paddleboards, scuba gear and the like?

JW: That's a good point, and there are many approaches to managing AIS. I'm seeing pieces in water approvals now that apply to AIS including requirements to sterilize nets and other equipment. The province is being very prescriptive and there's great uptake on this.

Comment: The wording in the legislation is "watercraft", so anything that falls under that category would be covered.

Comment: You spoke about looking at species that are coming live into retail stores. This could be addressed by working with Canada Food Inspection Agency. I encourage you to work with Agriculture and Rural Development though. Voluntary releases are a definite threat.

Decision 41.5: The board approved the amended terms of reference to extend the timelines until October, with consensus.

7 Tracking the Implementation Status of Council Recommendations

Andre Asselin gave a presentation on the background and process of this initiative. Implementation status of Council recommendations is assessed every year prior to the March board meeting. Updates in the detailed reports are provided by the identified implementers, and staff create the shorter report from those updates. Quite a bit of progress has been made since the last update.

Discussion

Andre and others answered questions from the board:

Q: The update report focuses on showing changes from the last report, but a newcomer would not see the big picture by looking at just one report. Could we include a bit of description around the status of the bigger items like the wetland policy? In addition, it is not always clear how the action was actually completed (e.g., to address wetlands of exceptional value). Could there be fuller disclosure on what was exactly done for each item? Also, it seems as though sometimes the original intent of the recommendations has not been followed.

Bill Werry (BW): I acknowledge your concerns and will take this back for consideration.

Andre Asselin (AA): We might be able to pull together all the updates for a single report in a file that lists all the updates chronologically; that would allow a newcomer to track implementation progress from the beginning. Staff have also considered how to provide more informative updates as the current process is very challenging. For example, a webinar might be held for a particular project to allow board members to see how each recommendation is being acted on, and would provide the opportunity to ask questions of the person or group who is responsible for implementing.

Q: Perhaps the individual work unit within the GoA could be identified to raise transparency of this process?

AA: Staff work closely with our GoA liaison throughout this process.

BW: We will take that recommendation back for consideration.

Q: Have you considered bringing the original team members back to re-evaluate implementation progress?

AA: That has been discussed, but starts to get complex with bringing people back so many years later, in the case of the wetland policy.

Comment: This underscores how important it is to have clear concise recommendations.

AA: I agree; the aim is that each recommendation has a “who”, a “what” and “by when.”

8 Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA)

Jay Nagendran, CEO of AEMERA delivered an informational presentation on AEMERA and its activities to the board. AEMERA’s board was established in April 2014, and he was hired as CEO in October 2014. They recently appointed a Chief Scientist from B.C., originally from Alberta, Dr. Fred Wrona, who is a world-renowned water researcher, and a Science Advisory Panel has been established.

Jay stressed the importance of Aboriginal engagement and the importance of being seen as independent of government and industry. Credibility will come if they are seen as transparent, unbiased and neutral. The AEMERIS website, which is AEMERA's face to the world, was launched in November 2014 and the agency welcomes input to make the website more useful. AEMERA is working with partners that provide data and information. The data and information they gather and report, including maps for academic study related to air and water quality, is based on science and evidence and provided in an accessible and timely fashion.

AEMERA is working with ESRD, Energy, AER and Aboriginal Affairs on the IRMS where the role of AEMERA is monitoring and assessment. The emphasis in the early going has been monitoring. Looking ahead, they will transition to a full environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. They are in the process of confirming a new agreement with the Government of Canada for oilsands monitoring; the current agreement is unsatisfactory as AEMERA may be seen as not arms-length from governments. They are hiring staff and are trying to spread the word about AEMERA. They want to demonstrate environmental excellence, including looking for office space that aligns with the LEED gold standard.

Their budget for 2015–2016 is almost in place, provided by CAPP and the GoA. As regional plans are established across the province, AEMERA will need to develop long-term funding solutions.

Discussion

Jay answered questions from the board:

Q: What about the role of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA)?

Jay Nagendran (JN): I have met three times with WBEA; they are a good group that does credible work with Aboriginal involvement. We aim to streamline and keep up the good work of groups like WBEA without duplicating efforts.

Q: Has all the historical water quality data from ESRD been transferred over to AEMERA? Or are we starting from 2015?

JN: Not all of it. A lot of data still needs to come over, but the resources needed to do this transfer aren't there right now. AEMERA and ESRD are looking at how the data can be moved over. There is goodwill and collaboration to share the existing data. In time, people should be able to go to one website to see all the data they need.

Q: Is the intent that all the data that is tied to approvals will go to AEMERA as well?

JN: The AER feels that compliance data is their data. At some point, that data needs to be accessible through AEMERIS, but it needs to be clear where that data is coming from.

Q: The NGO community appreciates how well AEMERA has been reaching out and listening to them. The NGO community also appreciates the role of the Government of Canada (GoC) as co-chair because of jurisdictional issues such as navigable waters and migratory birds. Couldn't some of the concerns with GoC's participation be addressed by an administrative policy?

JN: We want GoC to participate, but we want them to tell us how they want to participate. Our board needs to show value for money, and if we have to be timely, some requirements of the GoC as co-owners may prevent timeliness.

9 Alberta Water Research and Innovation Strategy (AWRIS) 2014: A Renewal

Justin Riemer, Assistant Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Innovation Division of Innovation and Advanced Education gave a presentation on the renewed Alberta Water Research

and Innovation Strategy. The strategy focuses on five sectors (energy, environment, food, fiber and health) and stresses innovation. He reviewed the background of the strategy, starting with *Water for Life* (WFL) and AWC's request of the Alberta Science Research Authority to develop a process to do research in support of WFL. From there, the Alberta Water Research Institute was established and given \$30 million to undertake research, which was supplemented by a further \$15.2 million through Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions (AI-EES). Two reviews on the effectiveness of the investments were performed, and showed that the outcomes have been significant. Some of the outcomes include work on municipal and industrial effluents, ceramic membranes for tailings, and treatments. This technology is being used in a Statoil project, which is supported by AI-EES. Other work has looked at urban needs for water and wastewater, including water reuse. New techniques to monitor groundwater and drinking water have also been developed and work has been done to develop new tools for assessing wetlands, and understanding the connection between the landscape and water management. The renewed strategy will help address challenges in managing water-related impacts on the environment and economy.

Discussion

Q: How did you decide what projects to select?

Justin Riemer: The overarching strategy provides guidance, and must support the achievement of WFL. We work with AI-EES to determine which projects to undertake.

10 Alberta innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions

John Zhou provided an update on AI-EES research, which is funding 18 projects for a total of approximately \$10 million. The projects are selected according to the potential impact and probable achievability. AI-EES Water Innovation Program supports WFL and the Water Conversations. John provided a quick overview of current projects which include work on watersheds; healthy aquatic ecosystems; groundwater; water conservation, efficiency and productivity; and urban and rural water management. Examples include the South Saskatchewan Collaborative Modelling project, the Emerald award winning Southern Rockies Watershed Project, and work in SAG-D produced water treatment. They are looking for suggestions on how to improve irrigation efficiency, municipal water reuse, knowledge around hydraulic fracturing, efficient water quality systems in remote communities, and healthy lakes. Current funds are fully committed with projects to be completed in 2016. A new round of funding will be announced in April 2016, which will be followed by a new round of RFPs. New projects will be chosen based on their fit with the new AWRIS strategy. Project teams will be presenting on their work May 26-27 in Calgary. John invited the AWC sectors to provide recommendations on what research they believe needs to be done. Sectors should contact John if they wish to discuss further.

Discussion

John answered questions from the board:

Q: Regarding the improvements in CEP in SAG-D, is this technology easily transferable to other sectors?

John Zhou (JZ): This is a great story for in-situ, but there are very different processes for the mining side. It would be challenging to transfer one to another.

Q: How long do folks have to contact you with ideas for research needs?

JZ: Over the next couple weeks.

Q: Is all your funding tied to the RFP process?

JZ: No, we keep some funding available for emerging projects as well.

11 Status reports:

Ron indicated that status reports are available in the briefing binder and staff would be happy to answer any questions. No questions were asked.

12 New or Other Business

There was no new or other business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be at Government House on June 18th in Edmonton. Members were advised that the Groat Road bridge will not be open in June, and the best ways to access Government House will be by coming north up 149 Street from Whitemud Drive, or by coming south from 107 Ave.

Attachment 1: Meeting #41 Attendees

AWC Directors and Alternates

Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)
Carolyn Campbell, NGO (Environmental)
Deanna Cottrell, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Silvia D'Amelio, NGO (Fisheries Habitat Conservation)
Chris Fordham, Industry (Mining)
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)
Rob Hoffman, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
Al Kemmere, Government (Rural)
Sharon McKinnon, Industry (Cropping)
Ron McMullin, Industry (Irrigation)
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)
Steph Neufeld, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)
Brett Purdy, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions)
Hugh Sanders, NGO (WPACs)

Al Sanderson, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)
Doug Sawyer, Industry (Livestock)
Melodie Stol, Government (Small Urban)
John Van Ham, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Chris Ward, Government (Large Urban)
Bill Werry, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development)
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)
Jamie Wuite, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development)
Lorna Young, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
John Zhou, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions)
Gord Edwards, AWC Executive Director

Presenters:

Gord Edwards, *Management Report* (Item 1.5);
Bill Werry, *GoA Update* (Item 2.0)
Andre Asselin, *Operational Plan* (Item 3.0); *Process Guidelines* (Item 4.0); *Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations* (Item 7.0)
Sharina Kennedy and Deanna Cottrell, *Water Literacy Project Team* (Item 5.0)
Jay White, *Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team* (Item 6.0)
Jay Nagendran, Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (Item 8.0)
Justin Riemer, Alberta Water Research and Innovation Strategy: A renewal (Item 9.0)
John Zhou, Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions Update (Item 10.0)

Guests:

Martina Krieger, ESRD
Daphne Cheel, Innovation and Advanced Education

AWC Staff and Contractors:

Andre Asselin, Anuja Ramgoolam, Petra Rowell

Absent with Regrets:

Dave Burdek, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development)
Perry McCormick, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)
Mary Onukem, Government (Métis Settlements)
Stuart Thiessen, Industry (Livestock)
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)

Attachment 2: Meeting #41 Action Item Log

There were no administrative action items from this meeting.

Attachment 3: Meeting #39 Decision Log

Decision 41.1: The summary report for the October 30, 2014 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the AWC website.

Decision 41.2: The Board designated Anuja Ramgoolam as a financial signing authority for the Alberta Water Council, allowing Anuja to co-sign cheques up to and including \$25,000.

Decision 41.3: The board approved the 2015 Operational Plan as presented by consensus.

Decision 41.4: The board approved the proposed amendments to the terms of reference, along with changing the verb tense in the “Objectives” section to be in the present tense, by consensus.

Decision 41.5: The board approved the amended terms of reference to extend the timelines until October, with consensus.

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL
AGENDA, MEETING #41

March 19, 2015
McDougall Centre – Calgary
455 – 6th Street, SW

NOTE: Broad Category caucusing from 8:00 to 9:00 am followed by Members meeting from 9:00 to 9:15 am

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9:15 1.0 Administration – Chair 15 min

- 1.1 Welcome and approve agenda
- 1.2 Approve Summary Report from October 30, 2014 Board meeting
- 1.3 Review of actions from last meeting
- 1.4 Assign signing authority
- 1.5 Management Report

9:30 2.0 Government of Alberta update 30 min

Hear an update from the GoA.

10:00 3.0 Operational Plan 15 min

Approve the Council's 2015 Operational Plan.

10:15 Break 15 min

10:30 4.0 Process Guidelines review 15 min

Hear a presentation on the process for reviewing the Process Guidelines.

10:45 5.0 Water Literacy Project Team 30 min

Approve an amendment to the terms of reference.

11:15 6.0 Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team 30 min

Approve an amendment to the terms of reference.

11:45 7.0 Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations 15 min

Hear a presentation on the detailed and update reports.

12:00 Lunch (provided in the room) 60 min

1:00 8.0 Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Agency 30 min

Hear a presentation from the provincial monitoring, evaluation and reporting agency.

1:30 9.0 Alberta's Water Research & Innovation Strategy 2014: A Renewal 20 min

Hear a presentation on the renewed AWRIS strategy.

1:50 10.0 Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions Update 30 min

Hear an update on water research work of Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions.

2:20 11.0 Status Reports 15 min

2:35 12.0 New or Other Business 15 min

New items of business or other items of information for Council

2:50 Adjournment