



WCAS General Meeting Meeting Notes

June 9, 2004

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Main Conference Room
Penn West Building, 50th Avenue West
Drayton Valley, AB

In Attendance:

Cecil Andersen	Pembina Agriculture Protection Association
Cliff Whitelock	Pembina Agriculture Protection Association
Larry Williams	Alberta Environment
Mary Griffiths	Pembina Institute of Appropriate Development
Gwen Wood	AEUB
Rick Phaneuf	Alberta Environment
Jim Bolton	TransAlta
Greg Gabert	Penn West Petroleum
Hercules Georgiadis	Weldwood Canada
John Whaley	County of Leduc
Ron Sekura	Brazeau County
Robert Raimondo	EPCOR

WCAS:

Bob Scotten
Barb Johnson

Absent with Regrets:

Mike Woods Weyerhaeuser

Action Items

Action Item 1: Barb/Bob to draft a document that defines the WCAS protocol that would be engaged in the event of an air quality disaster.

Ongoing Action Items

Ongoing Item #1: Bob to obtain written agreement with Dr. Krupa concerning the handling of publications of any materials related to the WCAS agriculture program. Bob to also obtain possession of the finalized crop yield agriculture model and related reference manuals. Barb to investigate the existence of an original contract between Dr. Krupa and the Society.

Ongoing Item #2: Bob to investigate opportunities for radio media coverage once the new WCAS station operations in Edson, Drayton Valley, and Hinton areas are complete.

Ongoing Item #3: Robert Raimondo, Jim Bolton, and Bob Scotten to work on the construction of a document of resolution for the WCAS bylaws concerning the engagement of WCAS as a contractor for the operation and maintenance of ambient air stations that are otherwise competitively serviced by independent contractors.

Ongoing Item #4: Bob to follow up on the progress of Weyerhaeuser with respect to the formaldehyde monitoring application to be submitted to Alberta Environment.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Approval of March 17 and April 21, 2004 Draft Minutes

The minutes of the March 17 and April 21, 2004 were approved by consensus.

3. Review of Action Items

Review of the April 21, 2004 Action Items

Action Item 1: Bob to make arrangements for Elaine Ryl to conduct a preliminary assessment of Epcor land plots with respect to the future preparation of sites for an anticipated bio-monitoring program. **Complete.** Bob reported that a suitable site had been identified near the Genessee station. It was reported that the land had not been chemically sprayed and that it would be summer fallowed this year.

Action Item 2: Bob to obtain written agreement with Dr. Krupa concerning the handling of publications of any related materials to the WCAS agriculture program. **Ongoing.** Bob reported that he had received verbal assurances, however, due to unforeseen personal circumstances Dr. Krupa was unable to provide written documentation at this time. Bob advised that the documentation would be forthcoming. Questions were then asked concerning the possession of the finalized crop yield agriculture model. Bob agreed to follow up with Dr. Krupa on the ownership of the model and existing reference manuals. Finally, it was asked as to whether a contract existed between the Society and Dr. Krupa at the start of the agricultural project. Barb agreed to look into this matter.

Ongoing Item #3: Bob to investigate opportunities for radio media coverage once the new WCAS station operations in Edson, Drayton Valley, and Hinton areas are complete. **Ongoing.**

Ongoing Item #4: Robert Raimondo, Jim Bolton, and Bob Scotten to work on the construction of a document of resolution for the WCAS bylaws concerning the engagement of WCAS as a contractor for the operation and maintenance of ambient air stations that are otherwise competitively serviced by independent contractors. **Ongoing.** Robert Raimondo reported that some progress has been made on this draft resolution document. It was agreed that the document would be formalized to include incremental work that the Society may engage in. Bob indicated that the draft resolution document should be completed in time for the September WCAS general meeting.

Review of the March 17, 2004 Action Item

Action Item 1: Bob to speak to Weyerhaeuser concerning the issue of Drayton Valley's formaldehyde monitoring application to Alberta Environment. **Ongoing.** Bob reported that discussions with Weyerhaeuser representatives indicate that the application has not been completed. Bob reported, however, that Weyerhaeuser had given assurances that this would be completed sometime this summer.

4. Financial Report

Greg Gabert provided a brief summary of the WCAS financial status to date. Greg indicated that overruns in the budget were attributed to upgrading of computer software due to issues concerning virus problems, the purchase of new laptops and ups systems, and the completion of the Agricultural Bio-monitoring report. Greg also advised that overruns might be expected for the insurance budget item due to the 2003 Tomahawk claim.

Greg reported that collection of 2004 receivable accounts have been exceptional as compared to previous years. It was noted that monthly invoicing had commenced with respect to the expanded network. The sources of the monthly operational revenues include TransAlta, Epcor, and Weldwood Canada.

Bob reported that the expansion project had been completed and final costs are being determined. At this time Bob requested that the Board consider the purchase of an ozone calibrator. Bob explained that the Society has one calibrator but could use a spare. It was noted that the technicians share the one calibrator. Discussions followed and it was recommended that the purchase of the equipment be postponed for later consideration.

5. Updates and Reports

5.1 Zone Managers Report

- 5.1.1 *Agriculture Update.* Bob reported that arrangements have been made to have Elaine Ryl assist in determining the exact location suited for the mobile monitoring station in Breton. Bob explained that the start up date for this unit has not been determined. Bob informed the Board that delivery of the trailer unit was expected by June 11th and that it would be outfitted with equipment recovered from the decommissioned Steeper station. Bob also explained that it could take up to two months for the application for power hookups to go through the utility company.

The government requirements for the utility company's bio-monitoring program were briefly discussed. It was agreed that an opportunity might exist to have a third party, possibly Elaine Ryl, work on binding the synergies of the Society and the utility companies. It was further agreed that a fall meeting would be in order to discuss the engaging of other scientific expertise to assist in the defining of the scope of the future WCAS agriculture program.

Next, Bob relayed a request from Dr. Sagar Krupa for a \$3500 contribution to the US Department of Agriculture. The contribution would be put towards the nutritional analysis of alfalfa clippings that were supplied by the Society. Board members felt that the donation and shipping of the WCAS 1995 – 2003 clippings were an adequate in-kind contribution.

- 5.1.2 *TransAlta/Epcor Update.* Bob reported that the monitoring and collection of data at the expansion sites had been on track since June 1st. Bob indicated that the expansion project was completed within budget with no major difficulties.
- 5.1.3 *ATCO Power Update.* Bob reported that ATCO Electric had expressed their wishes to discontinue supplying power to the Hightower Ridge station located in the Berland area. Presently, ATCO services two major customers in the area; the WCAS monitoring station and a Telus mobility tower. ATCO agreed to continue to provide power only if both parties were to pay costs that were determined to be in excess of 80K per year over the next five years. Board members agreed that this option was not viable.

Bob indicated that either solar/wind energy or a diesel generator unit could power the Hightower station. After much discussion the Board recognized that these power source methods pose both maintenance and reliability issues. Since approaching another financial source was not an option either, the Board agreed that the station would need to be relocated.

- 5.1.4 *Communications Update.* Bob reported that the 2003 Annual Report had been completed and thanked Board members for their help. A special thanks was extended to Mary Griffiths for her continued efforts and diligence in reviewing the Report.

Bob recommended that the WCAS Newsletter be postponed until fall/winter. The logic for this recommendation was to have enough time to complete the inclusion of the Edson and Drayton Valley Weyerhaeuser stations in the WCAS network. The Board supported this suggestion.

Next, Bob reported that the Alberta Treasury Branch had indicated that they were interested in featuring WCAS in the commercial/environmental segment of their 2004 Annual Report.

6. Air Monitoring Update

Barb Johnson reported that the operational uptime for the month of April was 99%. It was reported that no exceedence of Alberta Guidelines occurred during this month.

Hercules Georgiadis reported that three one-hour exceedences of Alberta Guidelines occurred on June 5th at the Weldwood station. Hercules explained that the exceedences were a result of a venting situation.

Robert Raimondo wished to acknowledge Greg Swain for his attendance at the Genesee station open house. Greg explained the air monitoring instrumentation/equipment and fielded questions from the public on behalf of Epcor.

Discussions began concerning the reporting protocol that would be required for the expanded network. Barb agreed to meet with Jim Bolton to discuss the details of reporting and draft a suitable monthly reporting protocol. Questions were then asked concerning the protocol that would need to be followed in the event of a disaster. Cecil Andersen advised the Board that the onus for such reporting is on the industry player. Cecil explained that the WCAS would merely record the event while the polluter would be required to report the incident to the authorities. At any rate, the Board decided that a formalized document should be drafted that clearly defines WCAS's role in the event of an exceedence. Bob/Barb agreed to assume the task.

Action Item 1: Barb/Bob to draft a document that defines the WCAS protocol that would be engaged in the event of an air quality disaster.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for 9:00 a.m. September 22, 2004 in the main conference room, Penn West Building.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.