



## WCAS General Meeting

### Meeting Notes

September 22, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Main Board Room  
Penn West Building, 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Drayton Valley, AB

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#### In Attendance:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Cecil Andersen  | Pembina Agriculture Protection Association |
| Dave Stewart    | Talisman Energy                            |
| Steven Probert  | Capital Health                             |
| Gwen Wood       | EUB  |
| Jerry Navarro   | TransAlta                                  |
| Robert Kitching | Brazeau County                             |
| David Brand     | Luscar Ltd.                                |
| Jeff Sansom     | EPCOR                                      |
| Andy Lamb       | AB Environment                             |
| Rick Phaneuf    | AB Environment                             |
| Mary Griffiths  | Pembina Institute                          |

#### WCAS:

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Bob Scotten      | Executive Director       |
| Patrick Andersen | Environmental Specialist |
| Greg Swain       | Senior Technologist      |

#### Special Guests:

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Belanger      | Living Design Systems     |
| Warren Kindzierski | Seacor Environmental Ltd. |
| Bob Myrick         | Alberta Environment       |

#### Absent with Regrets:

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Hercules Georgiadis | Hinton Pulp       |
| Mike Woods          | Weyerhaeuser Ltd. |
| Audrey Kelto        | Leduc County      |

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#### ACTION ITEMS

**Action Item 1:** Bob to generate a financial report for review at next board meeting.

**Action Item 2:** Bob to acquire parting gift for Barb

#### ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

**Ongoing Action Item 1:** Bob and Dave to organize a compensation committee to review contractor salaries.

**Ongoing Action Item 2:** Bob to bring forward recommendations for Board consideration concerning the possibility of a new data acquisition system for the WCAS.

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1. Welcome and Introductions

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. Introductions were made and committee members welcomed.

2. Approval of Agenda. It was determined that item 5 on the agenda should be moved to item 3.

3. (Original agenda item 5) Alberta Environment (Bob Myrick) presentation on Particulate Matter and Ozone (see attachment)

1. Canadian standards for O<sub>3</sub> and particulate matter have not been exceeded in Alberta but there are areas in the province where it is necessary to develop management plans. This includes the West Central airshed (as ozone emissions monitored at Tomahawk, Violet Grove and Carrot Creek are already at the level that requires "management").

2. Urban centres are large sources of ozone and particulate matter.

3. 2010 is the target date for implementation of this Canada Wide Standard (CWS).

4. CWS meant to be proactive and the intention is to keep emissions as low as possible, not to "pollute up to" the standards.

5. Government to act as consultant rather than regulator; the management plan must be acceptable to all stakeholders within the air shed.

The presentation was followed by discussion, including the issue of how to manage emissions from transportation. Vehicles and railways do not contribute funding to the airshed. Cecil Andersen noted that WCAS had spoken to the government about funding for air emissions from transportation, without success.

4. Approval of June 1, 2006 Draft Meeting Notes

The meeting notes of June 1, 2006, with a few minor revisions, were accepted by consensus.

5. Review of the June 1, 2006 Action Items

**Action Item 1:** Bob and Dave to form a committee to review staff contracts.

1. Jeff or Jerry will be asked to represent industry on the committee.

2. Target is to have new contracts in place by the beginning of 2007.

3. Bob will arrange for the committee to meet.

The issues with respect to **Action Item 1** were acknowledged to be **Ongoing**.

**Action Item 2:** Bob is participating in the Pembina Nisku Operators Group (PNOG) technical panel that is addressing the Nisku sour gas wells. Complete. Bob will provide updates in his routine report to the WCAS Board.

**Action Item 3:** New data acquisition system. Bob proposed waiting two to three months to evaluate new software under development by Matthew Eisentrout. A decision must be made by early 2007.

The issues with respect to **Action Item 3** were acknowledged to be **Ongoing**.

Review of Hightower station (Ongoing **Action Item 1** from March 1, 2006)

Bob reported that the structure and heating systems have been passed by an engineer (John Ogilvie, Peng) as compliant. Insurance is in place. The fuel supply has been approved by the engineer, as well as the generator enclosure. A moisture proofing plan for the structure is in place.

Dr. Kindzierski confirmed that locating the exhaust from the backup generator 100 metres from the station will yield no observable impact on readings.

Bob has submitted a letter to Alberta Environment noting that uptime efficiencies may be below 90 percent in some months as the station is experimental. Rick Phaneuf indicated that Alberta Environment is aware of the nature of the station and does not believe any objections will be raised.

**Ongoing Action Item 1** is considered complete.

6. Approval of May 24, 2006 special meeting minutes

The meeting notes of May 24, 2006 were approved unanimously with minor corrections

7. Financial Review

No financial report had been generated in time for this meeting. This issue is **Ongoing**.

8. WCAS Staffing Review

1. Transfer from Barb was acknowledged to be challenging.

A token of appreciation from the board for Barb's service will be generated. A card will be circulated at the next board meeting and an Ikea gift certificate will be procured by Bob.

2. Patrick Andersen and Warren Kindzierski were most promising applicants. Dr. Kindzierski will sign off on reports that Patrick generates.

3. As the office is currently only occasionally staffed, phone will be forwarded to either Bob or Patrick and cellphone numbers posted on the web site.

9. Zone Manager Report

5.1 Hightower Station Update

See report under **Ongoing Action Item 1** above.

5.3 .5were acknowledged to be already addressed.

5.2 Nisku Field Sentinel monitoring system

Strong assumptions by participants were made as to the role of WCAS, including addition of two more WCAS monitoring stations. The group also recommend introduction of source monitoring and a communications protocol. It was proposed that WCAS take on the responsibility of communication, quality control, quality assurance and auditing of data gathered. It was resolved to wait for a formal proposal to the board.

5.3 Data Acquisition Replacement Report

See report under **Action Item 3** above.

5.4 WCAS Office Relocation

- i. New office address is 5105 51<sup>st</sup> St
- ii. Move day is October 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow for Telus to relocate telephones and internet access

5.5 Carrot Creek Building Update

A new building is in place and operational.

5.6 Alberta Environment Audit

The annual audit of the monitoring stations was very good with some issues that were dealt with promptly. The audit report was distributed to those interested.

11. Boundary Expansion North Discussion

Bob inquired if the Board is interested in extending the WCAS boundary to the north. There is currently an area between the Peace Airshed Zone and WCAS that is not within an airshed. Alberta Environment would be willing to loan a monitoring station for the Whitecourt area. Several stations currently operated by a company in the area. Bob will obtain an emissions inventory and estimate the income and the costs associated with a boundary expansion and present this to the board.

12. Compensation Committee Selection

This was handled under **Action Item 1**.

13. Air Monitoring Update

A brief report was given by Patrick, noting in particular that the nitrogen analyzers at Wagner had an uptime of 8.3 percent for the month of August due to hardware failure and inability to acquire a replacement in a timely manner.

14. Other Business

Bob inquired whether WCAS wished to participate in the Airshed Zone Council, next meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Bob to attend the meeting. Passed.

Implementation of the new Air Monitoring Directive, particularly plans for changes to the QA/QC procedure, to be in place for April 2007. It was acknowledged that extra costs are involved.

A resolution to modify the by-laws was distributed to be deferred until next meeting.

Bob and Gwen to attend the CASA Nitrogen Conference on September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual report is at the printers and will be out to review shortly.


Bob was queried on his recent activities. He indicated he would provide a list of his speaking engagements, etc.

Mary said that Hilary Shannon of the West Athabasca Watershed Bioregional Society is willing to be her alternate representing environmental organizations. Her nomination must be approved at the next Annual General Meeting.

15. Next meeting to be November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Location to be announced.

**Attachment 1**

Slide 1



**CASA**  
**Particulate Matter & Ozone**  
**Assessment**

Bob Myrick, Alberta Environment  
West Central Airshed Society  
September 22, 2006


Slide 2



**Presentation**  
**Summary**

- ◆ **Overview of Canada-wide Standards and CASA framework**
- ◆ **Results of the 2001-03 data assessment**
- ◆ **Communication strategy**
- ◆ **Steps towards developing management plans**


Slide 3



## Overview of the Canada-wide Standards (CWS)

- ◆ The CCME established CWS for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) in June 2000.
- ◆ Balance of minimizing risks to human health and the environment and costs of reducing emissions.
- ◆ The CWS must be achieved by 2010.

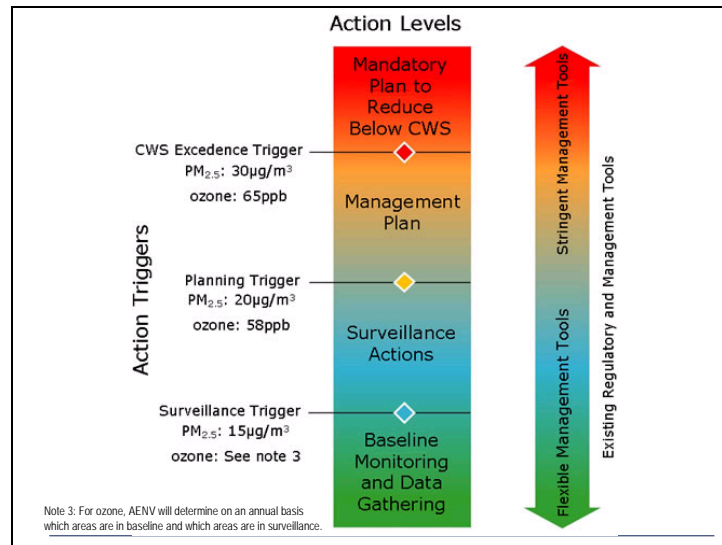
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## Overview of the CASA Framework

- ◆ The CASA framework is Alberta's plan for achieving the CWS (endorsed by CASA in 2003).
- ◆ The CWS and CASA Framework are based on the concepts of:
  - ◆ continuous improvement,
  - ◆ pollution prevention, and
  - ◆ keeping-clean-areas-clean.
- ◆ The CASA framework has three triggers and four corresponding action levels.

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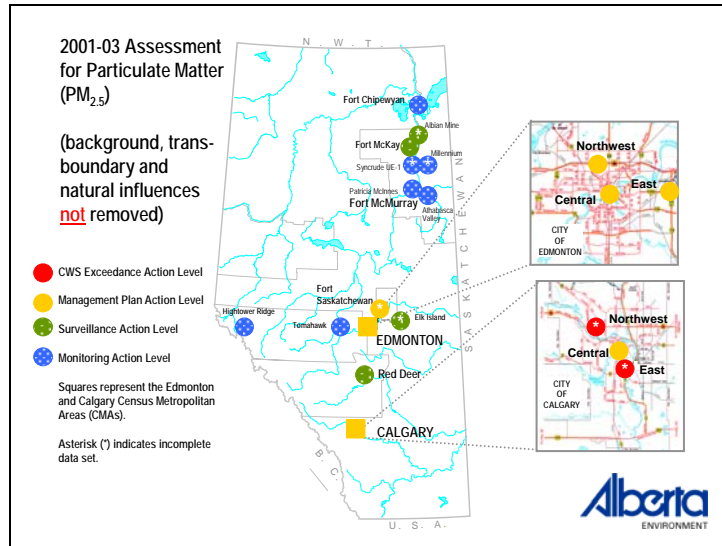
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## Data Assessment

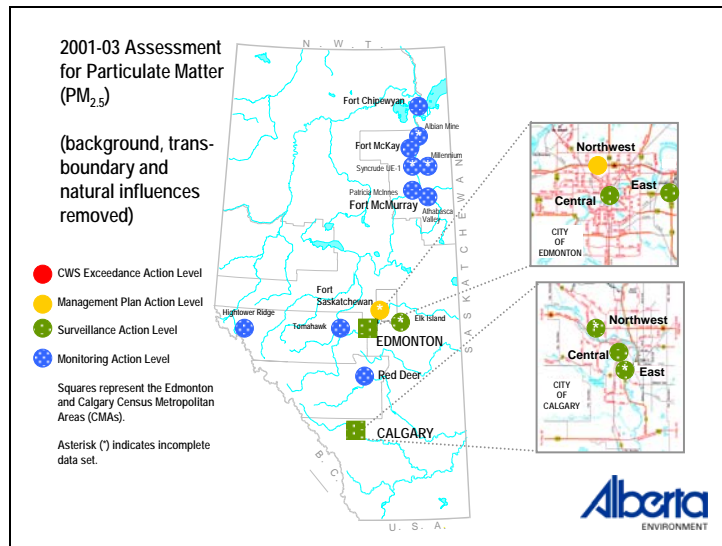
- ◆ It is Alberta Environment's responsibility to assess the data against the trigger levels defined by the framework.
- ◆ The assessment is completed annually based on data collected over three consecutive years.
- ◆ Data assessment involves four steps:
  - ◆ Assess QA/QC'd data following the CWS and CASA framework procedure.
  - ◆ Remove episodes that were primarily caused by background, transboundary or natural influences.
  - ◆ Re-assess the data.
  - ◆ Assign trigger levels to all Alberta monitoring stations as well as the Edmonton and Calgary Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs).



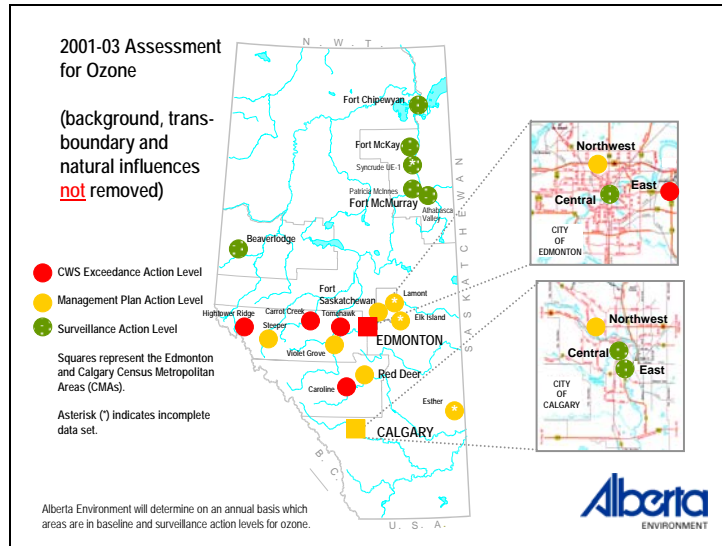
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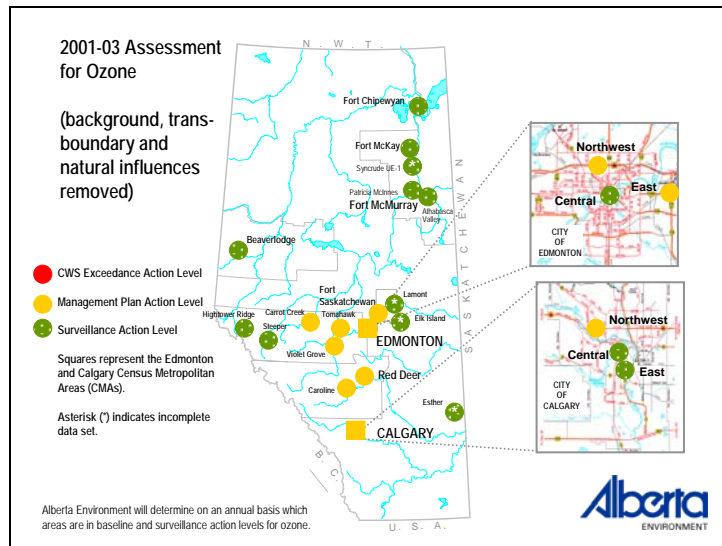
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## Assessment Results

- ◆ **No areas of Alberta exceeded the Canada-wide Standards.**
- ◆ **The following areas were assigned to the Management Plan action level for ozone:**
  - ◆ Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) including Fort Saskatchewan airshed and West Central airshed
  - ◆ Calgary CMA
  - ◆ Parkland airshed
- ◆ **Ozone smog episodes occurred during the summer of 2002 over a large part of the province.**

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## Management Plan Action Level

- ◆ **Stakeholders need to develop a management plan aimed at preventing future exceedances of the CWS trigger.**
  - ◆ The plan will consider factors such as population growth, industrial activity and air quality trends.
  - ◆ AENV may impose a management plan if it is not developed within two years by stakeholders.

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**Alberta**  
ENVIRONMENT

**Next Steps for Alberta Environment**

- ◆ **Finalize the 2001-03 assessment report**
- ◆ **Communicate results to stakeholders**
  - ◆ Informal communications (meetings, presentations, phone calls)
  - ◆ Letter to municipalities, industries and airsheds
  - ◆ News release
- ◆ **Assist stakeholders in initiating management plan meetings**
- ◆ **Finish the 2002-04 and 2003-05 annual assessments**

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**Alberta**  
ENVIRONMENT

**Who does the letter go to?**

- ◆ The letter would go to major industries and the Mayors/Reeves in the Edmonton CMA.

Alexander Indian Reserve  
City of Edmonton  
City of Leduc  
City of Spruce Grove  
City of St. Albert  
Stony Plain Indian Reserve  
Town of Beaumont  
Town of Calmar  
Town of Devon  
Town of Legal  
Town of Morinville  
Town of Stony Plain  
Village of New Sarepta  
Village of Spring Lake  
Wabamun Indian Reserve  
Leduc County  
Parkland County  
Village of Thorsby  
Village of Wabamun  
Village of Warburg  
City of Fort Saskatchewan  
Strathcona County

Sturgeon County  
Town of Bon Accord  
Town of Bruderheim  
Town of Gibbons  
Town of Redwater

Other Maps: the Queen in Right of Canada  
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## How do we develop and implement the management plan?


- ◆ **Use of a wide variety of regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms including:**
  - ◆ compulsory actions such as regulations and bylaws
  - ◆ voluntary actions such as providing incentives for use of environmentally responsible modes of transportation
- ◆ **The intent of the CASA Framework is to develop and implement actions through a process that will facilitate multi-stakeholder responsibility for air quality.**
- ◆ **Implemented by a variety of organizations including government (federal, provincial or municipal), the private sector and NGOs.**

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## Potential Management Plan

- 1. Conduct further detailed episode analysis to determine causes of elevated ozone levels.**
- 2. Develop a strategy on what stakeholders can do to ensure ambient air quality levels remain below the CWS in the future taking into account:**
  - ◆ current and future emission scenarios,
  - ◆ detailed emissions inventories for affected areas, and
  - ◆ review of monitoring needs for air quality management (e.g. refinement of ozone precursor and ozone monitoring network in and adjacent to the affected area).
- 3. Improve air quality forecasts to determine when smog episodes are expected to occur.**



### Potential Management Plan

4. Improve public notification of existing and forecasted smog episodes through the media.
5. Increase education so that the public can change their habits especially on smog days (anti-idling, limit use of motorized vehicles, encourage car-pooling).
6. Partner with or lobby other jurisdictions.
7. Determine if the management strategy is working (performance measures).
8. Improve the plan over time (continuous improvement).



### Management Plan Tools (from CASA Framework)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Voluntary Programs and Approaches       | 13. Emissions trading & other market mechanisms                 |
| 2. Existing Programs and Policies          | 14. Offsetting new sources                                      |
| 3. Environmental Assessment                | 15. Establish reduction targets                                 |
| 4. Source Performance Standards            | 16. More stringent emission standards/limits                    |
| 5. Pollution Prevention Planning           | 17. Air Quality Index & Forecasting                             |
| 6. Ambient Air Quality Guidelines          | 18. Taxes and Fees (used as either incentives or disincentives) |
| 7. Codes of Practice                       | 19. Promote industrial ecology                                  |
| 8. Industry Stewardship Initiatives        | 20. Energy efficiency   |
| 9. Public-Private Partnerships, Agreements | 21. Green energy policies                                       |
| 10. Education, Training                    | 22. Transportation Demand Management                            |
| 11. Reward, recognition programs           | 23. Zone Formation Analysis                                     |
| 12. Land use policy and planning           |   |