



WCAS Technical Meeting Meeting Notes March 23, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

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

In Attendance:

Cecil Andersen	Pembina Agriculture Protection Association
Gwen Wood	EUB
Robert Kitching	Brazeau County
Andy Lamb	AB Environment
Rick Phaneuf	AB Environment
Mary Griffiths	Pembina Institute
David Brand	Luscar Ltd.

WCAS:

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

Absent with Regrets:

Dave Stewart	Talisman Energy
Jerry Navarro	TransAlta
Steven Probert	Capital Health
Hercules Georgiadis	Hinton Pulp
Adam Stokowski	David Thompson Health
Audrey Kelto	Leduc County
Jeff Sansom	EPCOR

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 1: Patrick to forward meeting minutes to update the website.

Action Item 2:

1. Welcome and Introductions / Approval of Agenda

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Introductions were made. Minutes from November technical meeting were approved with a small change.

2. Hightower Station Update

Bob indicated that the Hightower station is operating, with some work left to be done. The whole process has been a challenge, particularly with the timetable stretched later into the year than was desired. Greg discussed the analyzers that are operational at this time (SO₂, O₃, NO/NO₂/NO_x, CO, PM_{2.5}, as well as meteorological data) but the quality of data is still suffering due to power fluctuations.

Cecil questioned the quality of the power supplied by the generator and the duration of generator run time; Greg indicated that the generator isn't starting up to keep battery power floated and that the electrician is working on these issues and expects them to be resolvable.

Greg indicated that old analyzers are currently installed, to be replaced as new ones arrive.

It was agreed that a kickoff event would be a good idea once the station is ready to bring online. It was proposed to organize a tour of the site by bussing stakeholders out to the site. Tying the unveiling of the station with our implementation of the new AMD requirements was also discussed.

3. Operations and Maintenance of Acid Deposition Network for TAU/Epcor

Bob provided some background to the board; WCAS has taken care of partisols for this project in the past.

The AMD required service at once per month, but the Acid and Mercury deposition projects are being stepped up to require service once per week. Doctor Kindzierski is currently managing these projects and has a technician performing these services. TAU/Epcor would like WCAS to contract this technician to take care of the enhanced level of service. No TransAlta or Epcor representatives were present to discuss this matter at the time of the meeting, and to this topic was **Deferred**.

4. New Equipment Status

Greg indicated that new crank-down towers for mounting meteorological equipment to replace the static towers have been ordered and will cost on the order of \$30,000US. He also mentioned that some of the analyzers in place at Hightower are old units; new ones have been ordered and are on the way.

Greg took this opportunity to mention that three satellite phones had been purchased and have been deployed and Greg, Jeff, Bryan and Patrick have all done a Construction Safety Training program.

5. Shop Development Status

Bob wrote a letter to Jerry Navarro requesting the use of land at the Meadows monitoring station. The letter is in TransAlta's system and a response is expected soon.

Bob also indicated that Epcor has offered buildings for WCAS to use. They are very large and sitting idle, but are relatively remote compared to the Meadows site and would not belong to WCAS and thus eviction is a possibility.

Bob and Greg both wish to carry on with attempting to secure the Meadows site, also indicating that the samples from the agricultural program are currently stored in suboptimal conditions. An additional shed or garage was suggested at the shop site to properly store and catalogue the samples. Bob and Greg both expressed that they prefer the Meadows location.

6. Current Status of Elaine Ryl

Cecil and Bob met with Elaine recently, where she indicated that she wishes to scale her workload back this season and phase out completely over the next 1-2 years. She wishes for someone to take over the manual portion of the job this year. It was decided that an individual to fill this role should be sought; Cecil indicated he may have a lead on an interested individual. Mary indicated Elaine should be invited to the annual general meeting.

7. Go Forward Activities

Cecil and Bob indicated that the agricultural program is currently rudderless; it is carrying on without a clear purpose and with no solid proposals for change. Robert mentioned that there will probably interest from other organizations in the future in benchmarks of air quality effects. Carrying on the course was recommended by Bob, with no alterations at this time.

The storage of samples was brought up for discussion. Currently, samples are stored in a raw form and are distributed somewhat randomly throughout various locations. Elaine feels it is important to reduce the samples to manageable size, catalogue and store them all together. Purchase, borrowing or renting a sample grinder was discussed, with a cost estimate in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

8. Genesee Site Status

The agricultural plot at the Genesee station was discussed. Bob indicated that Epcor had installed some equipment for the Mercury Deposition Program and had agreed that a portion of our plot would be grassed to minimize the area of bare field. At some point, the entire area around the station was tilled up, disrupting the Mercury Deposition Program and our agricultural plot, with a loss of two years of work. The plot must be started over from scratch. Cecil proposed a nearby abandoned farmsite as a possible replacement.