

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

MEETING #39

March 20, 2014

McDougall Centre, Calgary

Executive Summary

The board welcomed Apu Sharma as the new director representing the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and Melodie Stol as the new director for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. Several Council partners have been nominated for a 2014 Emerald Award and they were recognized for their good work. The Council's tenth anniversary is this year, and board members were asked to forward ideas for acknowledging this milestone to staff. The board also ratified Bill Werry as the new Council President.

The Government of Alberta provided an update to the board, focusing on the Integrated Resource Management System, Hon. Minister Campbell's recent round table conversations, Water Conversation update, and Wetland Policy implementation.

The board was also very pleased to hear a presentation from Andre Corbould, Chief Assistant Deputy Minister for the Flood Recovery Task Force, on flood recovery and mitigation activities and progress.

The board agreed to establish a Water Literacy Project Team and approved its terms of reference. The 2014 Operational Plan was also approved, as was the process for developing a 2014-2016 Communications Strategy.

Updates were provided on several topics:

- The Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team reported on its activities with a particular focus on results of the recent survey.
- The Water Reuse Symposium program is almost complete, fundraising efforts are going well but sponsors are still needed, and registration is picking up for the event to be held June 25-26 in Calgary.
- Implementation progress of Council recommendations.

The next board meeting will be June 12, 2014 in Edmonton.

Summary of Discussion

The general board meeting was convened by Rob Pritchard at 9:30 am, immediately following the AGM. Two new directors were welcomed to the board: Apu Sharma is the new director representing Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and Melodie Stol is the new director for Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

The chair recognized seven AWC partners for their 2014 Emerald Award nominations:

- Alberta Lake Management Society for the LakeWatch program
- Aquality Environmental Consulting for their course, Alberta Wetlands: From Policy to Classification
- CAPP for their Hydraulic Fracturing Guidelines and Practices project
- City of Calgary for their Materials Plant retrofitting and upgrading initiatives
- City of Edmonton for the Master Naturalist program
- Ducks Unlimited Canada for the Alberta Carbon Protocol as well as Project Webfoot, and also in partnership with ConocoPhillips Canada on the Bullshead Conservation Area
- Trout Unlimited Canada for Yellow Fish Road.

The AWC's sister organization that works in the air world, the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, was also nominated for their significant body of work during CASA's 20 years. Further, Canada's premiers recently named a project sponsored by Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions as the winner of its Excellence in Water Stewardship award: the Southern Rockies Watershed Project.

Fall 2014 is the Council's tenth anniversary; board members were encouraged to think about what an appropriate celebration might entail, and to share their ideas with staff.

1 Administration

1.1 Approve Agenda

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

1.2 Summary Report from October 31, 2013 Meeting

Decision 39.1: The summary report for the October 31, 2013 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

1.3 Action Items from October 31, 2013 Meeting

There were no action items from the last meeting.

1.4 Appointment of Executive Officer

Bill Werry has been nominated by the Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities broad category as their representative on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has also nominated Bill as President of the Council, but both of these nominations require ratification by the board.

Decision 39.2: The Board approved Bill Werry as:

- a) the representative for the Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities broad category, and*

b) President of the Council for a term ending in October 2015.

1.5 Approve Signing Authority

With the recent retirement of Terry Sly, another staff member needs to be designated as a co-signing authority for cheques of \$25,000 or less.

Decision 39.3: The Board designated Andre Asselin as a financial signing authority for the Alberta Water Council, allowing Andre to co-sign cheques up to and including \$25,000.

1.6 Management Report

Gord Edwards referred the board to the management report in the briefing package. He noted that staff have been very busy with ongoing projects and the recent audit. Meetings with the new Minister, Hon. Robin Campbell and Deputy Bill Werry were quite productive. Plans for the water reuse symposium are proceeding well. The *Riparian Land Conservation and Management* report was released just prior to the board meeting and a webinar is being organized for the Water Literacy project. Gord acknowledged the work done by Terry Sly over the years to support the Council and noted that Terry will be attending the luncheon at the June board meeting. In response to a question from a board member, Gord indicated that the Minister was unable to participate in a media event to formally accept the Riparian report, but that ESRD has accepted the report and recommendations.

2 Government of Alberta (GoA) Update

Lisa Sadownik provided an update to the board on behalf of the GoA, focusing on items of particular interest to the Council. Her remarks are reflected in these minutes along with the question and answer segments following her update.

Lisa reiterated that Bill Werry is looking forward to serving as the Council's President and recognizes the value and importance of strategic partnerships. She focused her comments in four areas, followed by a short discussion with the board.

1. Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS)

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been established and at the end of March the *Responsible Energy Development Act* will be proclaimed. The final areas of responsibility under the *Water Act* and *EPEA* will be transferred to the AER at that time. Environmental assessment responsibilities will transition later in 2014. The departments of Energy and ESRD remain accountable for policy and planning elements of the resource management system. The Minister will shortly be appointing a chair and vice chair for the new Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA), which will come into being with the proclamation of the *Protecting Alberta's Environment Act* in April or May. (Note: Subsequent to the board meeting, Lorne Taylor, former Minister of Environment, and Greg Taylor, former Dean of Science at the University of Alberta, were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of AEMERA.)

ESRD is completing stakeholder engagement on the Surface Water Quantity Management Framework for the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP). A final draft of the framework will be available for public comment in May or June, with a final version submitted for approval by January 2015. Tailings management is another key component in the LARP. ESRD is developing a draft Tailings Management Framework based on recent stakeholder engagement. The draft will be subject to further stakeholder review with a final draft

document and implementation plan ready for approval in late 2014; implementation is expected in early 2015.

The draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) was released to the public in October 2013 and has received a lot of comment. Key areas of feedback include direction for development of regional wetland objectives, climate variability, the importance of headwaters, conservation areas, and watershed management (including riparian areas and source water protection). A draft Surface Water Quality Management Framework for the mainstem Bow, Milk, Oldman and South Saskatchewan rivers was released and is open for stakeholder comments. Work on the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP) is starting and a final plan is expected by 2015.

2. Minister's Round Table Conversations

Minister Campbell has held 13 discussions with various groups including the Council, in which he shared the priority areas for ESRD and also heard about the work of the organizations. A number of groups noted similar comments, which staff are now summarizing. The Minister is taking this input and working with the Deputy to incorporate it into a strategic plan. Similar sessions are planned for the fall, likely in a different format.

3. Water Conversation Update

The Water Conversations were held in early 2013, focusing on four priority areas. ESRD has prepared a summary and expects to release it shortly. Lisa briefly summarized some of the activities that came out of those discussions, including the new work on water literacy being done in partnership with the Council.

4. Wetland Policy Implementation

Working groups are now developing operational policy tools and components in five areas to enable implementation of the Wetland Policy: Technical (operational guidance manual and tools), Systems (including a web portal and other electronic infrastructure), Regulatory (a one-window approach for wetland approvals), Governance (including the financial structure for the wetland replacement program), and Education and Outreach (develop materials for target audiences that address a variety of wetland aspects).

Other GoA Initiatives

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development has released a draft irrigation strategy, for which input is still being received; it will be finalized by June.

Discussion

Lisa and other GoA representatives responded to questions from board members.

Q: The SSRP consultation period was extended. Do you know why?

A: This was due mainly to the change of ministers and because a lot of last minute input was being received.

Q: Many other initiatives in addition to the regional plans are underway. How are these other initiatives being linked into the regional plans? It is especially important when meeting with stakeholders and the public for GoA representatives to have a good understanding of those linkages.

A: There have been a number of questions about how the regional plans relate to policy and other aspects, so ESRD is taking a more deliberate approach to make it clear who is leading different components to ensure these activities are aligned. We are also looking at how ESRD engages in terms of building and maintaining long-term relationships, and are taking a systems perspective.

Q: How will the organizational structure of ESRD and other departments relate to AEMERA?

A: The new legislation will set up the organization, and this is still being worked out. AEMERA will be an agency under the Province, and work is underway to establish good links. AEMERA will be accountable to the ESRD Minister, but not part of the department.

Q: Some of us have concerns about the impact of the Obed mine spill on the Athabasca watershed and how this is being followed up. With the spring freshet coming, what is the GoA doing to reduce risk and ensure there will not be secondary issues?

A: We can look into this and get back to you.

Q: We are also hearing about a lot of staff movement from ESRD to AER and concerns about the remaining regulatory capacity in the department. Are there plans to fill these vacated positions?

A: This is definitely a challenge. Alberta Energy is seeing similar staff movement. It may mean reallocating resources, such as having policy staff do some regulatory work on an interim basis. There is also a hierarchy in terms of recruitment priorities, and filling operational gaps is the highest priority. We are taking interim steps to prevent things from falling through the cracks.

Q: We hear details of the wetland policy are now being fleshed out. Are there any plans to engage landowners and rural sectors about how new regulations will affect them before the GoA adopts these regulations?

A: We can look into this and get back to you.

Q: You mentioned a policy for healthy lakes. A lot of shorelines are under the local municipality and the Municipal Government Act is now under review. Is this lake policy tied in with the MGA review (e.g., in connection with environmental reserves)? This would seem like the ideal time to align municipal responsibilities with riparian and wetland issues.

A: The MGA review is just getting started so I would encourage you to put these comments on the table. A lot of work on healthy lakes is also happening with local groups. The conversations about cumulative effects management will also involve municipalities and their roles. We can follow up on this and provide more information.

Comment: I have been to some of the MGA sessions, and water has never come up. We need to ensure this is made part of the discussion.

Comment: One of the sessions I was at did discuss floods and water relationships.

Q: I've heard the term "mitigation banking" mentioned with respect to governance in the Wetland Policy. This would be a new approach. Can you comment on that idea?

A: This is one component the working group is considering.

Q: Have starting dates been determined for the rest of the regional plans after the NSRP?

A: I don't have the timelines but I think they have been extended. The focus is on the SSRP and then the NSRP but I'm not sure about the others. They are still a priority but there are a lot of other things happening right now.

Q: Some of the frameworks for the LARP remain outstanding (e.g., landscape plan, biodiversity plan). What is their status?

A: Work is underway on the biodiversity management framework, but I haven't heard much about the landscape framework. A reclamation framework is also underway and all of these are interconnected.

Q: I'd also heard that perhaps a forest conservation strategy will be revived. Is there any basis to that or can you give an update?

A: Not at this time.

Comment: At the last meeting, the possibility of AEMERA joining the Council was raised, but that seems unlikely now.

3 Operational Plan

Gord Edwards provided context for this item and Andre Asselin presented the details. In October 2013, the board approved start times for new projects, but since then concerns about capacity for both stakeholders and staff have emerged. To accommodate these concerns, later start times have been proposed for four new projects, and the SOO proponents, where appropriate, have agreed to these changes:

- Lake Management would now start in June 2014
- Source Water Protection would now start in October 2014
- Phase 4: Water CEP would start in 2015
- *Water for Life* Implementation review would start in 2015

Because these timelines are part of the Operational Plan, the board needs to formally approve the changes and the 2014 Operational Plan.

Discussion

Board members noted the following points in discussing the Operational Plan changes:

- At the last meeting, the possible overlap of the source water protection project with other initiatives and activities was discussed. In Decision 38.8, the board agreed to establish a working group to further explore and scope this topic and come back with a recommendation on whether the topic and the proposed approach are appropriate. The board could decide not to proceed. The approach should be to examine whether the SOO is appropriate and what the deliverables should be. The intent should still be for the working group to come back to this recommendation and review the scope. This should be reflected in Action 3.5 in the 2014 Operational Plan.
- Are any of the priorities now proposed for 2015 higher than those noted for 2014? Also, since the GoA brought forward the SOO on source water protection, perhaps they should do further scoping and come back to the board, rather than the working group.

- Delaying the projects to 2015 will not affect the outcomes. For example, the CEP team would need specific data to do its work and that is unlikely to be available until 2016 anyway. The WFL implementation review typically has a three year gap between reviews, but a key factor is the political landscape and priorities. So it's probably prudent to wait until the new minister's priorities are known as well as the results of the Water Conversation.
- There seems to be uncertainty about if and when a new staff member will be hired. If we agree to do this work and can't hire a new person, there will be a lot of challenges.
 - The assumption is that funding will come through and the position will be filled. If funding is not provided, everything will change. A new working group could be formed in June with current capacity, but work would have to be postponed if a new person is not in place by fall.

Decision 39.4: The board approved the draft 2014 Operational Plan with an amendment to action 3.5 to reflect that the working group will review the Statement of Opportunity and if the scope is appropriate, develop terms of reference for the project.

4 Water Literacy Working Group

Sharon McKinnon presented the background and draft terms of reference for a Water Literacy Project Team, reviewing the SOO request from ESRD and how the project relates to the *Water for Life* strategy. She presented the objectives, key tasks, timelines and deliverables, proposed membership, and budget, noting that the project is proposed to wrap up in the fall of 2015. The total estimated budget is \$107,500.

Discussion

The following points were noted in the board's discussion of this item:

- The proposed milestones generally tend to align with board meetings, so the month is used rather than a precise date.
- The definition is an important part of this work. Perhaps the water literacy definition should come to the board for review at an appropriate time. The team wants to ensure the definition is a useful and valid assessment tool, so could be presented to the board for review and feedback, likely in October 2014.
- Does "literacy" in this context include education around compliance and enforcement?
 - Generally, we are talking about the ability of an average person to understand water concepts and this would be something different. ESRD and the team would have to discuss this idea.
- Two groups in the list of proposed members are not part of the Council. Would they be paid a fee for their service or would they be full team members, and how big would the team be?
 - Non-Council members were on the Working Group (e.g., the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group, or TSAG) because it was important to have the relevant and knowledgeable key players involved. They have submitted expense claims in the same way others have done. The stakeholder support budget is based on about 15 people.
- How can the first task on the inventory and assessment be done before a definition is in place? Should these steps be reversed?
 - The first task is to do an inventory of products and programs to understand what research has been done to assess water literacy levels. Then two aspects

can start at the same time: develop a survey to go out to key stakeholders to tell us what water literacy programs and products are out there, and start working on the definition with ESRD. ESRD needs the results of our work and they have given us specific tasks that will give them the raw materials to create a strategy. ESRD doesn't need to see hard numbers but trends.

- People are at different levels and we want them to get to a higher level. We need to go past understanding to action. The words we use should be carefully chosen to give this work some content, or the goals will not be achieved.
 - The water literacy ladder does incorporate action. We need to ensure the definition mirrors that ladder and that we are asking the right questions.
- Aboriginal stakeholders have a great deal of traditional ecological knowledge and these connections need to be made with the science perspective.
- The budget notes that Council's core funding will provide \$52,500, which leaves \$55,000 to come from stakeholders. Who will contribute those funds? It seems that half of the work may not be done if funds are not available. The team should come back in October with a firm budget that identifies funding sources.
 - We have no formal commitments yet from GoA or other stakeholders. Those funds are not typically set up before the project team starts its work. Teams may hire a consultant to help with the work but we are trying to be more creative. We want to ensure quality of the work but may be able to find less costly ways to have it done (e.g., hire a grad student) and potentially do some of it in house if a new project manager is hired.

Decision 39.5: With the expectation that the Water Literacy Project Team will clarify details in the TOR and budget expectations based on the board's feedback, the board:

- 1. Approved the proposed Water Literacy Project Team Terms of Reference***
- 2. Approved the creation of the Water Literacy Project Team***
- 3. Disbanded the Water Literacy Working Group.***

5 Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team

Jay White provided an update on the work to date of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Project Team. He provided context on this issue and problems of AIS in other places, noting that Alberta does not have strong legislation to address AIS, although there is a lot of good information in the public domain. Jay reviewed the objectives and progress of the team and summarized the results of the recent online survey, including what is being done now and what some of the barriers are. Responses were categorized by postal code if that information was provided, and one area that did not appear to get much response was Fort McMurray. The team is waiting to hear about its grant application to do a review of prevention and management approaches in other jurisdictions.

Discussion

The following points emerged during the discussion of this issue and the presentation:

- The lack of information about what is being done in the Fort McMurray area is unfortunate. That region has many water bodies and could be at risk given the amount of recreational activity. Is there a way to find out more about what is going on there? Industry in the area would also be interested.
 - Data was sorted by the first three letters of the postal code; respondents could be based in Calgary or Edmonton but working in Fort McMurray, so we don't

know precisely if that area is represented in the survey. Hopefully any company working there would respond accordingly in the survey.

- The webinar was very good. If the team may be considering a regulatory approach in its work, it should engage with the policy staff in ESRD, not just the strategy section, since they may not be entirely familiar with what is needed or appropriate.
- It's good to see agricultural fieldmen engaged. It might be worth engaging the Solicitor General's department since they are involved in issuing boat licences, and it would be an opportunity to get information out to boat users.
- A regulatory mechanism is needed to address this issue now before it becomes a serious problem in Alberta. The GoA should be tracking boats coming into the province and making it mandatory for owners to clean their boats.
 - Some things can be done without having to change the legislation, such as by assigning more enforcement power. Other jurisdictions have used mandatory measures and the team will be looking at a range of options.

6 Communications Strategy

Meredith Walker provided background on the Council's Communications Strategy and its relation to the Business Plan from which the strategy takes direction. A new Communications Strategy is needed for 2014-16, and Meredith described the proposed focus and the plan for developing the new strategy. The Executive Committee will present a draft in June and a final document in October. She noted that the goal to "improve Council process" includes communications, but other things as well, for example, ensuring the process guidelines are meeting the organization's needs.

Decision 39.6: The board approved the proposed process for developing the 2014-2016 Communications Strategy.

7 Symposium Update

Judy Stewart presented a brief update on the Water Reuse Symposium. Most speakers have been engaged for the three theme areas, fundraising is progressing very well, and registrations are coming in. Sponsors are still needed and board members were encouraged to check back with their sectors on potential sponsorship. A number of people have expressed interest in attending but need to wait until after April 1 to register, in the new fiscal year. Hon. Minister Campbell has agreed to make opening remarks.

8 Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations

Andre Asselin provided background on how the Council tracks implementation of its recommendations, noting the preparation of both a detailed annual report and an update report. The intent is to track progress by implementers. Updates are provided by representatives of sectors responsible for implementation and staff then compile the update report. Some of the early recommendations were written in a way that they will always be "in progress" (about 10% of the total). Recommendations from four teams have moved from "in progress" to "implemented." Reports are available on the Council's website at <http://www.awchome.ca/Publications/RecommendationTracking/tabid/160/Default.aspx>.

Discussion

The following points were noted in the board's discussion of this item:

- The executive should discuss if and how the 10% of recommendations that will never be implemented could be retired.
- The Council spent a lot of time on some big projects with major policy recommendations, and the implementation tracking approach and report do not reveal much about the status of those recommendations; wetlands is an example. This may be because the wetlands report did not have consensus, but it would be better to capture those things that are not being considered and those that are. The Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project is another example. One sentence saying the recommendations are being considered contrasts with a lot of specific recommendations that are clearly not being considered now. It would be more transparent to show that. Maybe we just need more robust reporting, but for now, the update doesn't accurately reflect what is happening.

9 Presentation from the Flood Recovery Task Force

Andre Corbould, Chief Assistant Deputy Minister, Flood Recovery Task Force, reviewed the origins and structure of the decision making model to address flood recovery efforts. Decisive action taken by the GoA was instrumental in developing an effective flood response. Recovery efforts are well into the intermediate phase and work is beginning on long-term recovery. Mitigation has focused on project proposals that increase flood and drought resilience, reduce vulnerability, and reduce risk.

Funds have been allocated toward erosion control and some decisions have been made in High River related to berms and dikes, removal of the CPR bridge, and the Wallaceville relocation. With that relocation, houses will be removed and the area allowed to renaturalize. The Task Force is also assessing other natural solutions with assistance from groups like Ducks Unlimited, Cows and Fish, and others. All 15 routes for a High River diversion have been modelled and discussions are underway with people downstream.

Several sites have been examined for detention and storage capability, including dry dams and off-stream storage. Non-structural mitigation options are also being examined. Andre noted that the GoA's short document "Respecting our Rivers," which includes seven mitigation principles, has been updated and is available at: <https://pabappsuat.alberta.ca/albertacode/images/Key-Elements-of-Mitigation1.pdf>.

Discussion

Andre engaged in discussion with board members following his presentation.

Q: How much momentum is behind the dry dam projects? In the headwaters, people have lot of concerns about such structures. There seems to be inequitable access to consultants and what the consultants might be hearing and factors that are going into their recommendations. There are concerns about their environmental literacy and exposure to ideas.

Andre Corbould (AC): When you hear these things, you need to consider who is talking. The GoA's official communications record notes that the GoA is proceeding with purpose and has not yet committed to specific new infrastructure. We can't control what a specific group or a consultant says. The Task Force is working to ensure people do hear different perspectives and I have spent a lot of time to ensure I hear these views as well. I can understand how perceptions differ but there is a commitment to evaluate ideas with sound

engineering. A number of our recommendations may well say we don't think we should do certain things.

Comment: Environmental review is also important, especially with respect to the headwaters and riparian areas.

AC: Although we were asked by someone in the community to bypass public review processes, the only situation that would warrant that would be a clear threat to public safety. Even if a direction was proposed, an environmental review process could say that direction should not proceed. The GoA challenge is to show we are moving quickly but those decisions must be guided by a balance of engineering, science, and environmental regulation.

Q: How are the province and municipalities working together, for example, making decisions about bridge removal or rehabilitation?

AC: The sixth element of mitigation is municipal initiatives within their jurisdiction. We had good discussion on the CPR bridge and Wallaceville in High River before making decisions. With Wallaceville, it took five months of coordinated discussion between the province and the municipality. In every such case, we are trying to create partnerships with the jurisdiction, talk to people, review options together, and make decisions jointly before moving ahead. High River was never forced to do anything they didn't want to do. We are similarly working with the City of Calgary, and have asked the City to look at the Elbow River bridges, evaluate for flow and advise if they want help to consider how to rebuild or redesign. \$30-million was allocated to Alberta Transportation to look at redesign of bridges in flood-prone areas, and we expect this to be done at the municipal level too.

Q: The Municipal Government Act is under review and input from the Task Force would be very valuable. Also, the environmental regulatory review under the Water Act approval process allows seven days to register concerns. This is a very short time given the complexity of issues. Many NGOs don't have standing to raise concerns that may be valuable to hear, so standing is an issue for many of these groups.

AC: We are happy to help enhance standing if we can. If groups don't have standing they think they need, the Task Force can perhaps help; sometimes the issue is capacity or staff. One solution might be additional provincial financial assistance to hire staff and get standing. These options are being looked at.

10 New or Other Business

There was no new or other business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attachment 1: Meeting #39 Attendees

Council Directors and Alternates

Peter Aku, NGO (Fisheries Habitat Conservation)
Maureen Bell, NGO (Environmental)
Mark Brostrom, Government (Large Urban)
Ken Brown, NGO (WPACs)
Carolyn Campbell, NGO (Environmental)
Martin Chamberlain, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Energy)
Chris Fordham, Industry (Mining)
Jim Hackett, Industry (Power Generation)
Al Kemmere, Government (Rural)
Sharon McKinnon, Industry (Cropping)
Ron McMullin, Industry (Irrigation)
Keith Murray, Industry (Forestry)
Rob Pritchard, Government (Large Urban)
Brett Purdy, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions)

Hugh Sanders, NGO (WPACs)
Tracy Scott, NGO (Wetland Habitat Conservation)
Apu Sharma, Industry (Oil and Gas)
John Skowronski, Industry (Chemical and Petrochemical)
Melodie Stol, Government (Small Urban)
Stuart Thiessen, Industry (Livestock)
Jason Unger, NGO (Environmental)
John Van Ham, Industry (Oil and Gas)
Jay White, NGO (Lake Environment Conservation)
Jamie Wuite, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development)
Gord Edwards, AWC Executive Director

Presenters:

Gord Edwards, *Management Report* (Item 1.6); *Operational Plan* (Item 3.0)
Lisa Sadownik, *GoA Update* (Item 2.0)
Andre Asselin, *Operational Plan* (Item 3.0); *Tracking Implementation Progress of Recommendations* (Item 8.0)
Sharon McKinnon, *Water Literacy Working Group* (Item 4.0)
Jay White, *Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team* (Item 5.0)
Meredith Walker, *Communications Strategy* (Item 6.0)
Judy Stewart, *Symposium Update* (Item 7.0)
Andre Corbould, *ADM Flood Recovery Task Force* (Item 9.0)

Guests:

Lisa Sadownik and Martina Krieger, ESRD
Cathy Maniego, Executive Director Flood Recovery Task Force

AWC Staff and Contractors:

Andre Asselin, Alesha Hill, Meredith Walker, Kim Sanderson

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)
Greg Sears, Industry (Cropping)
Jeff Surtees, NGO (Fisheries Habitat Conservation)
Bill Werry, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development)
John Zhou, GOA and Provincial Authorities (Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions)

Attachment 2: Meeting #39 Action Item Log

There were no administrative action items from this meeting.

Attachment 3: Meeting #39 Decision Log

Decision 39.1: The summary report for the October 31, 2013 meeting was adopted by consensus and will be posted on the Council website.

Decision 39.2: The Board approved Bill Werry as:

- a) the representative for the Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities broad category, and*
- b) President of the Council for a term ending in October 2015.*

Decision 39.3: The Board designated Andre Asselin as a financial signing authority for the Alberta Water Council, allowing Andre to co-sign cheques up to and including \$25,000.

Decision 39.4: The board approved the draft 2014 Operational Plan with an amendment to action 3.5 to reflect that the working group will review the Statement of Opportunity and if the scope is appropriate, develop terms of reference for the project.

Decision 39.5: With the expectation that the Water Literacy Project Team will clarify details in the TOR and budget expectations based on the board's feedback, the board:

- 1. Approved the proposed Water Literacy Project Team Terms of Reference*
- 2. Approved the creation of the Water Literacy Project Team*
- 3. Disbanded the Water Literacy Working Group.*

Decision 39.6: The board approved the proposed process for developing the 2014-2016 Communications Strategy.

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL
AGENDA, MEETING #39

March 20, 2014
McDougall Centre – Calgary

NOTE: Broad Category caucusing from 8:00 to 9:00 am followed by Members meeting from 9:00 to 9:30 am

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- 9:30 1.0 Administration – Chair 15 min**
- 1.1 Welcome and approve agenda
 - 1.2 Approve Summary Report from October 31, 2013 Board meeting
 - 1.3 Review of actions from last meeting
 - 1.4 Appointment of Executive Officer – Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities and Appointment of President
 - 1.5 Approve signing authority
 - 1.6 Management Report
- 9:45 2.0 Government of Alberta Update 30 min**
Hear an update from the GoA.
- 10:15 3.0 Operational Plan 30 min**
Approve the Council’s 2014 Operational Plan.
- 10:45 Break 15 min**
- 11:00 4.0 Water Literacy Working Group 30 min**
Approve terms of reference for a project team.
- 11:30 5.0 Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team 30 min**
Hear a presentation on the results of the team’s survey of Alberta stakeholders.
- 12:00 Lunch (provided in the room) 60 min**
- 1:00 6.0 Communications Strategy 15 min**
Approve the process for developing a new Communications Strategy for the Council.
- 1:15 7.0 Symposium Update 30 min**
Hear an update from the Steering Committee on progress towards hosting a symposium called “Re-Fresh: The Confluence of Ideas and Opportunities on Water Reuse”.
- 1:45 8.0 Tracking Implementation Progress of Council Recommendations 15 min**
Hear a presentation on the detailed and update reports.
- 2:00 9.0 Presentation from the Flood Recovery Task Force 45 min**
Hear a presentation from the Flood Recovery Task Force
- 2:45 10.0 New or Other Business 15 min**
New items of business or other items of information for Council
- 3:00 Adjournment**