



West Central Airshed Society
P.O. Box 7421, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1S6

Agriculture Meeting Notes

April 14, 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
Mary Griffiths	Pembina Institute of Appropriate Development

Special Guests:

Elaine Ryl	Operations Contractor
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WCAS:

Bob Scotten	Program Manager
Barb Johnson	Environmental Engineer

Absent With Regrets:

Robert Raimondo	EPCOR
Greg Gabert	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
Jim Bolton	TransAlta

Action Item #1: Elaine Ryl to provide a Basic Alfalfa Bio-monitoring Protocol, approved by Dr. Krupa/ Dr. Alan Legge, to the WCAS Board that will address the concerns of adequate data collection while reducing the overall workload of the agriculture program.

Action Item #2: Bob to communicate to Dr. Krupa, the Committee's wishes to be advised and/or have copies of any publications as related to the WCAS's agricultural study. In addition, Bob to communicate the Committee's desire to obtain ownership of the agriculture forecasting model and all related operational manuals.

Action Item #3: Bob to seek council on the necessity of contractors responsible for the inspection of the Alfalfa and Saskatoon plots that had been carried out in the past agriculture program.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Committee members and special guests were welcomed.

2. General Discussion

Discussions concerning the future agriculture program began. Elaine Ryl was asked as to whether she wished to continue on as operations manager for the upcoming years. Elaine expressed her interest in continuing with the program, however, in a decreased capacity. Elaine was then able to speak to possible ways in which the work of the agriculture sites could be reduced. Elaine indicated that she would provide the Board with a Basic Alfalfa Bio-monitoring Protocol that would address the time and work load commitment issue. Elaine indicated that the protocol would then be submitted to Dr. Alan Legge and Dr. Sagar Krupa for comment. The protocol would include a task and time estimate for the monitoring of three agricultural sites as well as the possible addition of Breton as a fourth site.

Questions were then asked concerning the utility companies as related to their needs for a bio-monitoring program. Although it was acknowledged that their requirements were not entirely known, it was agreed that it would be necessary to do some preliminary fieldwork in any case. Bob contracted to speak with the power representatives to suggest that plot preparation begin this year.

Bob reported that the final agriculture report, "Crop Responses to Air Quality in the West Central Region of Alberta", was promised by the first week of April, however it had not been received to date. Bob explained that formatting and revisions were to be included into the finalized document. Board members then indicated that they were interested in the publication of any related technical papers by Dr. Krupa. Bob agreed to request from Dr. Krupa any copies of such to be then provided to the Society. In addition, Bob agreed to seek clarification from Dr. Krupa regarding the ownership of the forecasting model and any operational documentation that would be required to run the model.

Other concerns discussed during the meeting included whether there was still a need to have a pathologist continue with biannual visits to the agriculture plots. It was noted that while these visits have occurred throughout the program there was no mention of the pathological results in the final report submitted by Dr. Krupa. This also brought to question whether the Society still required onsite evaluations of the Saskatoon plots that had been previously carried out by Dr. Allan Legge. Bob agreed to look further into these matters.

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3. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.