



**WCAS Technical Meeting  
Meeting Notes  
March 8, 2005**

10:15 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
Main Board Room  
Penn West Building, 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Drayton Valley, AB

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**In Attendance:**

Cecil Anderson	Pembina Agriculture Protection Association
Jim Bolton	TransAlta
Mary Griffiths	Pembina Institute of Appropriate Development
Robert Kitching	Brazeau County
Rick Phaneuf	Alberta Environment
Greg Gabert	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
Jason Schulz	EPCOR

**WCAS:**

Bob Scotten	Executive Director
Barbara Johnson	WCAS

**Absent with Regrets:**

Audrey Kelto	Leduc County
Steve Probert	Capital Health
Hercules Georgiadis	Weldwood of Canada
Robert Raimondo	EPCOR
Larry Williams	Alberta Environment
Mike Woods	Weyerhaeuser Ltd.
Gwen Wood	EUB
Dave Stewart	Talisman Energy

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**Action Items**

**Action item 1:** Bob to prepare a draft protocol concerning the mandate of the portable unit with respect to future engagement (this action is ongoing).

**Action item 2:** Barb to circulate a revised draft protocol for Board review concerning the handling of complaints, alarms, and the reporting of data (this action is ongoing).

**Action item 3:** Bob to notify Alberta Environment, CASA, and the PAMZ with respect to incorporating a small region of area into the WCAS Airshed Boundary that had not been previously covered by any Airshed.

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## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

## 2. Approval of November 30, 2004 Draft Minutes

The meeting notes of the November were accepted with one revision to the wording, fifth paragraph from the last, last line. In addition, Rick Phaneuf asked that a letter received by Eric Peake concerning the Hightower Ridge Air Monitoring station from Alberta Environment be included in the November 30, 2004 meeting notes.

The November 30, 2004 meeting notes were then accepted.

## 3. Review of the November 30, 2004 Action Items

**Action item 1:** Bob to circulate a list of items to the Board for consideration in the development of a protocol for the portable unit. **Ongoing.** Discussions concerning the portable unit protocol included ideas as to the criteria that would be considered when engaging the use of the monitoring station. It was noted that members felt that the unit would not be used for the handling of complaints but rather for a recognized community group, research organization or agency, or possibly to revisit WCAS sites that have been decommissioned. It was agreed that in considering the placement of the unit, a proposal request be received by the society. Suggestions for the contents of the proposal would include the Society to list the costs associated with the placement and operation of the unit to initiate terms for which the costs could be appropriated. Other items that were discussed including the length of term that would need to be negotiated; it was felt that a minimum of six months placement would be appropriate. Bob agreed to prepare a document outlining the concerns of the committee with respect to the protocol issue.

**Action item 2:** Greg to investigate the potential for solar power for running trailers in remote locations, to determine if the systems now produce enough power to operate air conditioning and heating. **Complete.** It was noted that the costs associated with using solar power would be approximately \$80k. It was further noted that while the solar power source may be able to produce enough power to operate air conditioning and/or heaters, reliability and efficiency would still be a concern.

**Action item 3:** Barb to circulate a draft protocol for Board review concerning the handling of complaints, alarms, and the reporting of data. **Complete.** A draft protocol that described alarming issues with respect to compliance, and non-compliance networks were discussed. The Board indicated that a more thorough list of contact parties and alternate contacts would complete the protocol. Barb agreed to elaborate the protocol and circulate to members for their review and comment.

**Action item 4:** Bob will research the cost of moving the High Tower station (e.g. to the Athabasca Lookout) and with information from Greg will also evaluate the potential for using alternative power at the High Tower site. **Complete.** Bob reported that the costs to move the Hightower Ridge station to the Athabasca Lookout location would amount to approximately \$15k including power & telephone connection. It was further noted that an alternate power source such as solar power would not be recommended to due to cost, reliability, and efficiency.

**Action item 5:** Rick and Bettina will discuss alternative sites for the High Tower station with Harry Benders (the AENV Auditor). **Complete.** Rick reported that discussions with Harry indicted that he was in agreement that most of the proposed sites would be adequate as an alternate site for the background station.

**Action item 6:** Bettina will give Greg Swain the NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer requirements for compliance monitoring. **Complete.** It was reported that Greg received the requirements from Bettina. The requirements were noted to be 300 ppb full-scale value.

#### 4. General Discussion

##### *AAM Portable Unit Protocol*

As discussed above, the protocol for the portable unit is in the process of development. Bob will provide the Board with a draft that includes various aspects of engaging the unit. To reiterate:

- The portable unit will not be used for the handling of complaints
- The unit shall be relocated for no less than six months
- Considerations will go to recognized community groups, such as research pilot groups, and municipalities or for the purpose of revisiting preexisting stations for historical continuity
- The party requesting the use of the unit will provide the technical committee with a proposal that details their financial commitment that will then be brought to the WCAS Board of Directors for final decision
- WCAS will provide the candidates with a list of costs that entail the setup and operation of the unit whereby the expectation of the parties would be to initiate negotiations as to where the costs could be compensated in lieu of the use of the portable unit

Discussions then began concerning the Nisku Sour Drills that have been planned for the Violet Grove/Drayton Valley area. Bob Kitching of Brazeau County indicated the growing public concern that has resulted due to the planned activities of the oil & gas companies in the area. Members suggested that an immediate consideration might be to implement a passive network to capture baseline history of air quality in the vicinity. Bob Scotten agreed to provide Mr. Kitching with an annual cost to implement and operate a passive network program. Further, Bob also advised that it might be possible to obtain passive equipment from Alberta Environment for little or no cost. Rick indicated that Alberta Environment might consider getting involved in short term monitoring with respect to public concern.

On a final note concerning the Nisku Sour Drills, Board members felt that those companies involved in the local drill activities should be approached to become funding participants of the Society. Barb agreed to obtain a list of those companies, and Bob agreed to draft a letter to explain the benefits to the individual companies as participating members. The draft will be forwarded to Greg Gabert for his review. The Board will also be asked to review the draft.

##### *Alarming, Handling of Complaints, Reporting Protocols*

As discussed above, Barb would be circulating a draft document outlining the WCAS operational protocols as related to alarming, handling of complaints, and data reporting for final Board review.

##### *High Tower Station Relocation*

Bob reported that a decision has not yet been finalized as to placement of the decommissioned background station. Bob indicated that at this time an alternate power source for the existing Hightower Ridge site would not be feasible or efficient. It was felt that a site must be chosen and the details of developing the site for the purpose of air quality monitoring would follow. Bob agreed to revisit Harry Benders, Bettina Mueller of Alberta Environment, and to seek the advice of Dr. Kindzierski to see if a final agreement on location could be resolved.

#### 5. Other Business

*WCAS Boundaries* Bob reported that Alberta Environment voiced their concerns regarding a small region of area between the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) and the WCAS boundaries that appears to not be included in either Airshed (Attachment A). Members felt that the area could be incorporated into the WCAS network given that Bob would conduct the appropriate notifications to Alberta Environment, Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA), and the PAMZ.

The meeting ended at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Attachment A

The screenshot shows the Alberta's Air Quality Index website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Air Quality Index", "Graphs and Reports", and "Help". The main content area features a map of the Ponoka region with various AQI readings. A legend on the right side of the map defines the AQI categories: Good (0 to 25), Fair (26 to 50), Poor (51 to 100), and Very Poor (> 100). Below the legend, there is a disclaimer and a list of Airshed Stations. The map shows several stations with their respective AQI values, such as Ponoka (20), Ponoka (49), Ponoka (53), and Ponoka (27). The website footer includes the URL "http://www2.gov.ab.ca/ma/cfm/profiles/index.cfm?MLAC=0255" and the date "March 8, 2005".

**Alberta's Air Quality Index**

Alberta's Air Quality Index, or AQI, is updated every hour, 24-hours a day. The AQI and current air quality conditions can also be accessed by phoning 1-877-247-7333.

This index defines air quality as:

- Good (0 to 25)
- Fair (26 to 50)
- Poor (51 to 100)
- Very Poor (> 100)

To obtain individual air quality parameter concentrations double-click on the station on the adjacent map.

Select the link below to zoom into a specific city.

- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Fort McMurray
- Fort Saskatchewan
- Grande Prairie
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat
- Red Deer

Please read the **DISCLAIMER** before accessing this site provide raw ambient air quality data for preceding 45 days. For archived data that has undergone QA/QC checks please proceed to <http://www.casadata.org>

The following are air quality readings for **1 PM F 17/05**

Airshed Stations:

Canadian Municipalities: **PONOKA COUNTY**

Address: [http://ed.m.telusps.com/tpub/ag\\_ar/default.asp](http://ed.m.telusps.com/tpub/ag_ar/default.asp)

Time: 1 PM Date: Feb 17 2005

AQI-Air Quality Index