

**MEETING NOTES**  
**West Central Airshed Society**  
**January 25, 2002**  
**Drayton Valley, Alberta**

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**In attendance:**

Board Members and Alternates

Cecil Andersen, Agriculture  
Anthony Heinrich, MD of Brazeau  
Dan Dore  
, Petro-Canada Oil & Gas  
Dwayne Kruger, LAROG  
Graham Beck, Leduc County  
Greg Gabert, Penn West Petroleum  
John Whaley, Leduc County  
Mary Griffiths, Pembina Institute  
Rick Phaneuf, AB Environment  
Robert Raimondo, Epcor  
Walter Bukkeins, Genessee Resident

Board Support

Barbara Johnson  
Bob Scotten  
Greg Swain

Absent with Regrets

Al Watson, Luscar Ltd.  
JoAnne Volk, Weldwood of Canada Limited  
Larry Paslawski, AEUB  
Mike Woods, Weyerhaeuser  
Sandra Barnett, TransCanada

ACTION ITEMS

1. Bob Scotten to investigate the practicality of running a power line to the Hightower station.

ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

2. Bob Scotten to provide Cecil Andersen with a letter of concern to Canadian National Railway Company.
3. Bob Scotten to investigate existing monitoring stations in the area that could potentially be incorporated into the WCAS network.

**1. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Cecil Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

**2. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2001 MEETING**

The draft minutes of the November 14, 2001 meeting were circulated. The minutes were accepted.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Greg Gabert presented an overhead of Revenue and Expenses for the month of December and a comparative 2001-2002 Accounts Receivable summary. (Please find attached *Appendix A* and *Appendix B*, respectively).

Greg reported that the Revenue and Expense statement appears to reveal an \$18,000 overrun in the 2001 budget. It was noted that this figure reflects such unbudgeted items as road upgrades, website development, purchased field equipment, trailer replacement at the Tomahawk site, additional costs associated with the Agriculture program, and increased communicational activities. In part, these costs have been offset with the special funding received from Alberta Environment.

Greg also reminded members that many of the costs appropriated in the 2001 fiscal year would not reappear in the 2002 year. Such expenditures would include past contractor costs for data QA/QC, technical management, and certain chemical analysis costs. Greg reported that some of the 2001 changes that have been implemented would in fact reduce future costs. Finally, Greg informed members that WCAS should exit the year with approximately \$95,000 less costs associated with breaking a lease agreement with CD Nova that may consequence expense up to \$18,000.

Greg presented a comparison account of the 2001-2002 Membership revenue. It was noted that the 2002 estimated revenue does not include past non-participating members such as CN Railway or ATCO Electric. Further, the 2002 forecast included an estimate of non-collectible accounts based on historical information. Greg indicated that the final figures regarding the forestry sector are pending emission information from Weyerhaeuser and Sundance Forestry. Next, Greg introduced correspondence received from Al Watson describing some of the activities within the coal sector and the financial impact that it shall have on the WCAS. Al suggested a mechanism to facilitate a sustaining membership whereby non-emitting groups could obtain participation status in the Airshed program. (Please find attached *Appendix C*).

**4. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

*4.1 Monitoring Update* –Barb Johnson reported that the overall average for the operational efficiencies of the analyzers for the month of October was 98.7%. Operational uptime for the month of November was 96.7%. It was noted that analyzers at the Hightower location were below 90% during November due to a number of power outages. The outages have been reported to be continuing in frequency at this site. Bob Scotten agreed to investigate the practicability of obtaining a power line directly to this station to minimize future analyzer downtime.

Barb reported that there were no exceedences of Alberta guidelines for the month of October and November.

**Action: Bob Scotten to investigate the practicality of running a power line to the Hightower station.**

#### *4.2 Zone Managers Report*

*Operational Activities.* Bob reported that the trailer upgrade at the Tomahawk location has been successfully completed. Bob also reported that all stations have had safety rails installed.

*EMC – Data Acquisition System.* A lengthy discussion concerning the EMC data acquisition system was held. Performance and support issues regarding the EMC data logger and the editing functionality of the software were also discussed. Many of the software conflicts and instability difficulties encountered with the system are to date unresolved. It was reported that an EMC representative had spent some time in-house trying to resolve the issues in December and in January with only limited success.

Bob recommended that the Board agree to acquire the Canadian based RSL Data Acquisition System. Bob indicated that the Parkland Air Management Zone and the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association have enjoyed good success with the system. It was noted that the cost of the RSL system is competitive with other systems on the market. The entire implementation was quoted by RSL at \$120,000 with installation time to be eight to twelve weeks. Bob reported that the Alberta Treasury Branch would be willing to finance the entire amount over five years at a rate of prime plus one. The estimated monthly payment would be \$2,300. It was noted that all financial information was included in a decision request document that was circulated to members previously. (Please find attached *Appendix D*).

Questions were asked about the contractual obligations of the Society. Bob indicated that discussions were underway with Mr. Bernie Brassard, the western representative for Maxxam Analytics. Mr. Brassard has stated that Maxxam would be open to discussion of a reduction to the existing lease. Bob informed members that at the present the maximum liability for breaking the lease are \$18,000. It was also noted that the contract with Maxxam extends to \$280,000 worth of equipment that WCAS is currently leasing from Maxxam. The existing lease will expire in March 2003. Bob indicated that Mr. Brassard would also be willing to renegotiate the equipment lease for an extended period.

Mary Griffiths moved forward the recommendation to replace the EMC data acquisition system with that of RSL Systematics Ltd. Greg Gabert seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

On a final note, Robert Raimondo spoke briefly about Epcor's position with the EMC system. Robert informed members that the Genessee station had been outfitted with the EMC software to provide a seamless integration to the WCAS. The costs of doing so included a \$15,000 licensing agreement. Robert advised that Epcor would be working on a come back to

CD Nova regarding this matter.

*New Members.* Bob announced that the council of Leduc County agreed to request membership in the WCAS. The Board will ratify the request at the Annual General meeting held in May, 2002.

## 5. BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

Bob Scotten reported that the boundary committee met in January to discuss the strategic recommendations proposed by Jacques Whitford Environmental Ltd. and reviewed by Dr. Warren Kindzierski of the University of Alberta. A map of the proposed boundary expansion was circulated and the site selections were identified as follows:

- A site situated in the Meadows monitoring location.
- A site situated to the north of the Wabamun Lake at a distance of approximately six kilometres NE of the Wabamun Power Plant in alignment with the Wabamun and Sundance Power Plants.
- A site positioned approximately eight kilometres to the SE of the Genessee generation station.

The stations at these sites shall include full meteorological equipment, trace analysers measuring SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NO, and NO<sub>2</sub>. The Genessee site shall also include monitoring of ozone.

Bob explained to the Board that the proposed plan would be delivered to the Alberta Environment Approvals Branch for assessment. It is hoped that the assessment will result in the changing of licensing for the power companies. It follows that operation of the new stations could commence by September thereby taking advantage of the weather conditions. Bob admitted that the plan is quite aggressive, but achievable.

In addition to the proposed monitoring at the Genessee site, Epcor has agreed to fund a passive program that will extend from the Genessee location to the Leduc County boundary. The purpose of the passive program is twofold. A passive network would support the decision for final station placement of the Genessee unit by confirming existing data. Secondly, the network would provide air quality information for the Leduc County residents. As well, Bob stated that the boundary proposal would also include a recommendation to Alberta Environment to provide mobile monitoring to the baseline of Leduc.

Questions regarding the implementation of agricultural bioplots within the expanded boundaries were voiced. Bob indicated that these concerns would be addressed at the upcoming agricultural meeting scheduled for February.

Discussions then extended to potential overlap of monitoring programs with the utility companies and WCAS. It was suggested that there may be opportunity to share resources for programs such as acid deposition monitoring that is required of the utility companies and is currently being carried out by the Society. Other monitoring requirements of the power companies, such as mercury testing, would be considered site specific and therefore handled outside of the WCAS.

Finally, it was noted that preliminary talks have begun with Weyerhaeuser and Weldwood regarding the possibility of incorporating their monitoring stations into the WCAS network.

Prospects for sharing resources with respect to the utility and forestry companies will be further investigated.

## **6. COMMUNICATION REPORT**

Communication activities for December included a presentation to Leduc County and the Westview Health Region. Upcoming presentations for the Parkland County are scheduled for February. Bob reported that the Edson Synergy Group has indicated that they intend to pursue the Town of Edson to meet with them to discuss health issue concerns. The Town of Edson has declined membership with the WCAS, indicating that they would prefer to see the WCAS actively monitor air quality within town limits before they endeavor to participate in the program.

Robert Raimondo indicated that Bob would be invited to provide an overview of WCAS to GPAC, in light of the boundary expansion. In addition, Bob reported that a plan to hold a General Public meeting will be delivered in the Seba Beach-Wabamun area following a news release intended to inform area residents of the role of the WCAS and the proposed boundary extension.

Discussions followed regarding a presentation delivered to the LWEPPA last year. It appears that there is some interest within this group to see the formation of a Capital zone region. It was noted that a Capital region would speak to concerns of urban-based issues that are certainly different than that of the industry-based issues that face the WCAS. However, it was noted that the development of the new zone could not occur in the near future.

## **7. AGRICULTURAL REPORT**

Bob reported that review of the 1997-2000 agriculture results have been completed. Dr. Krupa and Dr. Nosal have received the 2001 data and have indicated that they are satisfied with the data quality. An agriculture meeting with Dr. Krupa is scheduled for February 2002 to discuss the program results.

Cecil Andersen indicated that there would likely be a reduction in activities within the agriculture program for the upcoming year. Cecil explained that certain components of the program such as acid deposition and soil testing will continue, however, sampling intervals would be expected to be less frequent. Cecil also reports that it is anticipated that the power companies will have to incorporate an agricultural constituent to meet their monitoring program requirements.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Greg Gabert provided the Board with a CASA Publication entitled, "Clean Air Views". This quarterly report emphasized the similarity of the monitoring programs of the PAMZ and the WCAS. The report was not well received by members as it failed to capture the extreme difference in the operation of the two zones. While WCAS is a fully functional continuous air quality-monitoring program, the PAMZ is considered a largely passive air quality network. It was agreed that WCAS

would include an article in the 2001 Annual report to inform readers of the distinction between the programs. The write up shall include the merits and disadvantages of each program similar to the article appearing in the WCAS 2000 Annual report.

Discussions concerning reimbursement of costs to participating members of non-profit organizations were addressed. It was agreed that compensation for members would be calculated based on a mileage rate and per diem schedule such as the template used by CASA.

Next, a review of the November 14<sup>th</sup> action items was conducted. Outstanding items are as listed.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next general meeting will be held at 9:00 am March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002.  
The Annual General meeting will be held May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The meeting adjourned at 11: 30 am.

**Appendix A**

West Central Airshed Society  
Statement of Revenue & Expenditures  
As at December 31, 2001

		Year-to-Date			Total Budget	Balance in
		Actual	Budget	Variance	For Year	Budget
<b>FUNDING</b>						
Membership Fees Received	4050	872,359			868,421	-3,938
Network Cost Sharing Received	4100	112,840			12,840	-100,000
Interest Income Received	4850	4,157			0	-4,157
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>		<b>989,356</b>			<b>881,261</b>	<b>-108,095</b>
Less: GST portion of Funding		-57,936			-57,653	283
		<b>931,420</b>			<b>823,609</b>	<b>-107,812</b>
Less: Estimated Non Collectibles					-108,109	-108,109
<b>FUNDING, NET OF GST</b>		<b>931,420</b>			<b>715,500</b>	<b>-215,920</b>
<b>OFFICE &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Office Expenses	5100	28,118	37,700	9,582	37,700	9,582
Administration Expenses	5199	90,625	94,000	3,375	94,000	3,375
Board Expenses	5299	3,002	1,500	-1,502	1,500	-1,502
Travel Expenses	5399	11,241	0	-11,241	0	-11,241
Meeting Expense	5400	2,133	0	-2,133	0	-2,133
Communications Expenses	5575	9,157	11,000	1,843	11,000	1,843
Website Dev & Maint	5580	25,396	0	-25,396	0	-25,396
Miscellaneous Expenses	5054	60	0	-60	0	-60
<b>TOTAL OFFICE &amp; ADMIN EXPENSES</b>	<b>5599</b>	<b>169,732</b>	<b>144,200</b>	<b>-25,532</b>	<b>144,200</b>	<b>-25,532</b>
<b>AMBIENT AIR MONITORING</b>						
Utilities Expense	5722	14,760	0	-14,760	0	-14,760
Contractor Expense	5729	125,417	130,000	4,583	130,000	4,583
Chemical Analysis	5730	15,571	35,000	19,429	35,000	19,429
QA/QC Expense	5739	91,804	85,000	-6,804	85,000	-6,804
Site Maintenance & Development	5740	9,385	7,000	-2,385	7,000	-2,385
Field Services - Maxxam	5741	19,520	0	-19,520	0	-19,520
Consultation Services	5742	8,454	0	-8,454	0	-8,454
Technical Workshops	5745	3,938	0	-3,938	0	-3,938
Equipment Rental & Lease	5750	122,260	120,000	-2,260	120,000	-2,260
Field Supplies	5760	15,994	0	-15,994	0	-15,994
Accomodations & Meals	5775	4,218	10,000	5,782	10,000	5,782
<b>TOTAL AAM EXPENSES</b>	<b>5799</b>	<b>431,320</b>	<b>387,000</b>	<b>-44,320</b>	<b>387,000</b>	<b>-44,320</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE EXPENSE</b>						
Science Advisory Contractors	5620	62,233	72,000	9,767	72,000	9,767
Operations Contractor	5625	57,652	65,600	7,948	65,600	7,948
Diagnostic Contractors	5639	3,604	6,000	2,396	6,000	2,396
Soil Sampling & Analysis	5645	7,344	5,000	-2,344	5,000	-2,344
Data Analysis & Reports	5650	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	5680	0	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
<b>TOTAL AGRICULTURE EXPENSE</b>	<b>5699</b>	<b>130,834</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>29,166</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>29,166</b>
<b>HONORARIUMS</b>						
Land & Co-op Honorariums	5820	2,300	2,300	0	2,300	0
<b>TOTAL HONORARIUM EXPENSE</b>	<b>5825</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES</b>						
Miscellaneous Projects	5901	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES</b>	<b>5950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ASSET ACCOUNTS</b>						
Reclamation Trust Fund	1160		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
WCAS Contingency Account	1170		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL ASSET ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>734,185</b>	<b>715,500</b>	<b>-18,685</b>	<b>715,500</b>	<b>-18,685</b>

1. Website Dev & Maint - One time Cost \$25,000 in 2001. Will not be the case but have budgeted same in 2002 to address signage at stations
2. Although the invoice will arrive in 2002, the "Year End Actuals" is capturing Dr. Sagar's \$45K invoice.
3. Will not have Maxxam - Field Service Costs in 2002. (\$20K)
4. Equipment Rental & Lease - Although there is a \$18,000 penalty for breaking the Maxam Lease, the new lease arrangement will actually be reducing our annual payments by \$41K/yr.
5. WCAS will enter the 2002 Budget year with \$ 95,000 in the account and \$8,500 in the Reclamation account.  
Because of the \$ 18,000 penalty for breaking our lease agreement with Maxxam, we will enter the year with \$77,000.

Appendix B

Membership Receivable Comparison 2001-2002

2002			2001		
	\$ 9,337.03	Municipalities		\$ 9,012.10	Municipalities
	\$ 585,793.25	Oil & Gas *		\$ 559,003.07	Oil & Gas
	\$ 12,000.00	Pamz Zone - High Tower		\$ 12,000.00	Pamz Zone - High Tower
	\$ 129,214.29	Utilities		\$ 138,785.54	Utilities
	\$ 8,397.99	Coal		\$ 7,112.41	Coal
	\$ 63,613.11	Forestry *		\$ 69,541.27	Forestry
				\$ 48,902.03	CN Rail
	<b>\$ 808,355.67</b>			<b>\$ 844,356.42</b>	
Less	\$ 4,748.55	25% New Accts	Less	\$ 79,447.14	Invoices not collected.
	\$ 18,312.49	Potentially Unpaid Invoices based on historicals			
Estimate	\$ 785,294.63		Actual	\$ 764,909.28	

**Note:**

The 2002 Forecast reflects that we have chosen not to include nor invoice CN Rail and Atco Electric for the 2002 year. Have also factored in the possibility that we will continue to have difficulty collecting fees from other members based on lack of participation in 2001.

The 2001 Actuals does not include the one time contribution of \$100,000 we received from AEP.

Although we have picked up approx. \$19,142 in new member fees, have anticipated 25% who may not contribute.

Forestry Total is currently down but waiting for Weyerhaeuser/Sundance information .



## Appendix C

## Correspondence - Mr. Al Watson

As I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 25th I am providing  
The following comments:

- I have reviewed the Data Acquisition Assessment memo of January 22, 2002. It is disappointing that we have found ourselves with equipment/software that cannot do the job. As we need to get the job done and if that means acquiring new equipment, so be it. I would like to know what kind of deal can be made with CD Nova and Maxxam on the renegotiation of contracts before making a final decision. It is a lot of money, which we don't have, so we have to be careful. Please remember that the industry money pot is not bottomless. Which leads nicely into this:
- The Gregg River Mine shutdown their coal plant in 2000 so this will be the last year that they can contribute based on the funding formula which is calculated on the plant emissions. They are required by their EPEA Approval to be an active participant in WCAS. They are inquiring if there is a mechanism where they can retain their "active participant" designation while not emitting a quantifiable effluent stream (such as plant stack emissions). They are suggesting a "sustaining" membership such as used by the Canadian Land Reclamation Association. At the CLRA a sustaining membership costs \$200/year.
- Could WCAS create a mechanism where the GRM could make a financial Contribution to the Society and remain an active participant in the monitoring program? For the sum of \$??? (\$1000/year?) they can be classed as a non-emitting active participant. The CRC mine will be entering into a similar position in the next few years. This mechanism could also be used to allow other groups such as: environmental organizations like the Pembina Institute, Agricultural societies, service groups like the Lions, Elks, Rotary groups Church groups, basically anyone who can see the value in supporting the society. To make a financial contribution to the Society and be recognized as a "supporting member". This level of non-emitting, non-active participation would be more in line with the CLRA model of \$200? per year. There must be some good press for these groups to acknowledge that they support the efforts of WCAS.
- This should not allow them to have any more input into the running of the program than they would get from attending the AGM. We need to get more revenue sources involved with the Society so we can run a world class program without unduly increasing the financial burden on the industry participants. Something to think about.

Have a good meeting, all the best: AL

## **Appendix D**

WCAS Data Acquisition Assessment

Jan 22, 2002

Prepared by Bob Scotten, Mgr

WCAS Board Decision Request Jan 25, 2002 Board Meeting

Our current data acquisition system (EMC) is failing to live up to its expected potential. Problems with its ability to collect, store and report data have led to many hours of our time being wasted. The software platform does not allow any easy fixes, when one problem is fixed others pop up in various forms. The main issue is reliability...we have determined that the time error for solar radiation identified by Sagar Krupa was a software problem.

EMC has been responding to our concerns, however, never are they able to fix the whole system. The Web site was to be operational in September...we still can't get it to work for more than two days in a row.

To say it mildly, we have lost all confidence in the system. It cannot provide the Internet capability we desperately need for the promotion of the zone expansion. It doesn't have the ability to do the basic job of producing the monthly AMD report without a great deal of manual input. (Previously done at great expense by Jacques Whitford Environment)

I have discussed our problems with Ray Brassard of Alberta Environment. He too has had the same problems with a promotional system given to him by EMC. His system was given to him for a six-week trial; after a year and a half of trying to fix his system, Ray is sending it back. Ray has reviewed all the systems in the market place and in fact the AE network uses data loggers from most commercial systems. Ray is discouraged with EMC, ESC and the IKIS system. He says none of them are really set up for network operations such as ours.

We currently lease the EMC equipment through Maxxam Analytics for \$1,397.00 / mo. This lease terminates in March of 2003. Mr. Bernie Brassard of Maxxam Analytics has indicated he is willing to renegotiate our lease contract for the EMC portion of the contract. His company is quite aware of the long-term problems related to the EMC system.

CD Nova Instruments, the equipment supplier has been contacted and is willing to entertain negotiating a refund.

The one system that can do all of the tasks we need and has the flexibility to meet future needs is the RSL system. The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association developed this system at great expense. The system is robust, easily customized, has a proven alarming system, meets all Alberta Environment reporting requirements, as well as, CASA data warehouse requirements. The system drives the Wood Buffalo real time web site. It has been used by WBEA for five years and for Parkland Zone for two years without any problems. Ray Brassard is now in discussions with RSL to design a new system for AE.

The cost of the RSL system has been lowered considerably from previous years, was

180K, now quoted at 120K.

We have approached a national equipment-leasing broker seeking a suitable five-year lease. Our proposal was turned down by a number of large leasing companies due to the uniqueness of the equipment. They don't want to take the lease because of the re-market of the equipment is very limited.

One leasing company has indicated a willingness to underwrite the lease, however, it requires a letter of credit for the full amount. The monthly cost is \$2,260 for 75 months... basically 60 months with a fifteen-month buy out at the end of sixty months. (Total cost of \$177,700)

I approached the Treasury Branch in Drayton ...they have approved a loan for 120K. Monthly cost is \$2,300 for sixty months. (Total cost \$138,00). This is a prime plus 1 rate.

Our current cost of leasing the EMC equipment from Maxxam is \$1,397 per month. Our maximum liability is \$16,764 to contract completion.

### **Recommendation**

Purchase the new system, ASAP, using the Treasury Branch to provide the capital.