



WCAS Technical Meeting Meeting Notes

November 30, 2004

12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Main Board Room

Penn West Building, 50th Avenue West

Drayton Valley, AB

In Attendance:

Cecil Anderson	Pembina Agriculture Protection Association
Jim Bolton	TransAlta
Mary Griffiths	Pembina Institute of Appropriate Development
Ken Furrie	Enbridge
Audrey Kelto	Leduc County
Robert Kitching	Brazeau County
Bettina Mueller	Alberta Environment
Rick Phaneuf	Alberta Environment
Steve Probert	Capital Health
Dave Stewart	Talisman Energy
Gwen Wood	EUB

WCAS:

Bob Scotten	Executive Director
Greg Swain	Senior Technologist

Contractors:

Elaine Ryl	Biomonitoring program
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Guests:

Roy Crowther	Aquatic Resource Management Ltd.
William Flesher	Breton plots for University of Alberta
Dick Puurveen	University of Alberta, Breton plots
Jim Robertson	University of Alberta, Breton plots
Warren Kindzierski	University of Alberta

Absent with Regrets:

Barb Johnson	WCAS
Hercules Georgiadis	Weldwood of Canada
Robert Raimondo	EPCOR
Larry Williams	Alberta Environment
Mike Woods	Weyerhaeuser Ltd.
Greg Gabert	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.

Action Items

Action item 1: Bob to circulate a list of items that need to be considered for the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Protocol to the Board by e-mail and ask for their input.

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.

Action item 3: Barb to circulate a draft protocol for Board review concerning the handling of complaints, alarms, and the reporting of data.

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.

Action item 5: Rick and Bettina will discuss alternative sites for the High Tower station with Harry Benders (the AENV Auditor).

Action item 6: Bettina will give Greg Swain the analyzer requirements for compliance monitoring.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Scotten called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Mary Griffiths was asked to take the meeting notes.

2. Approval of March 17, 2004 Draft Minutes

The meeting notes of the March 17 were accepted by consensus.

3. Review of the March 17, 2004 Action Items

Action Item 1: Bob to coordinate a meeting with utility company representatives, technicians, and reporting personnel to further discuss operational procedure concerning the handling of complaints, reporting protocols, and alarming issues. **Complete.** Bob reported that a meeting was held June 17th to discuss these items. It was further reported that Barb is working on a draft protocol document that will include input from the EUB and Alberta Environment. This draft document will be circulated for Board review in the near future.

4. General Discussion

AAM Portable Unit Protocol

Bob has drafted a list of items to consider for the ambient air quality monitoring protocol for the portable unit, to help identify the locations at which the portable would be most needed. He will circulate to Board members by e-mail, for input. Bob said that the portable unit has been located at Breton and that the power should be connected soon. He emphasized that the unit is portable, not mobile, so will not be used in the same way as the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) mobile unit.

There was a brief discussion of the air quality impacts of intensive livestock operations, but Cecil indicated that there are relatively few in the WCAS area. Steve said that CASA is working on odour issues related to intensive livestock operations (ILO's).

Roy mentioned the potential for using solar power for the trailers, and said that there have been great improvements in the technology, that enable the generation of more power. Komex International is using solar power for an evaporative system at a remote location that needs quite a lot of power. Greg was asked to investigate the potential for using solar power for trailers in remote locations.

Alarming, Handling of Complaints, Reporting Protocols

Bob reported that Barb would be circulating a draft document outlining the WCAS operational protocols as related to alarming, handling of complaints, and data reporting for Board review.

High Tower Station Relocation

Bob reported that the station was decommissioned in September, since ATCO was no longer willing to supply power, unless Telus and WCAS provided the full cost, which would be \$34,000 per annum for WCAS (if Telus had shared the cost, which they were unwilling to do). The equipment was removed but the trailer is still at the High Tower location.

Bob discussed the difficulty he had in finding a suitable alternative site. Sites viewed included the Athabasca Lookout, 20 km North of Hinton (which is at approximately the same location as High Tower), the ski hill North of Hinton and one other. Bob inquired if others would be interested in co-funding the station. Lawrence Cheng at AENV said that the location is too high for acid deposition monitoring. Environment Canada said that it is too high for the National Air Pollution Surveillance Network (NAPS) program and that the NAPS sites are located near cities with a population in excess of 100,000. Bob inquired whether AENV thought it was essential to have a background monitoring station, but says Albert Poulette told him that while it was "nice to have", it was not essential. It appears that there was some miscommunication between Bob and Albert.

Bettina (from AENV) reported that High Tower was intended to provide the background level monitoring for the province and when AENV handed over the High Tower station to WCAS in 1996, it was made clear that WCAS was to continue operating it and be responsible for the budget and upgrades. Bob and the Board members had not been aware of this requirement or the associated documentation (Attachment A). Bettina said that AENV needs WCAS to continue operating a station for background air quality monitoring.

Bettina said that AENV is working on siting criteria for stations, but it is not quite ready. Background stations must be a certain distances from cities and other pollution sources.

Jim emphasized the need for baseline data and asked if AENV would help with funding. Bob pointed out that AENV did provide \$100,000 for equipment two years ago to help maintain the station. Warren said that a remote location is more important than the elevation. Rick indicated that the site would need to be far enough West to be outside the influence of pollutant sources. It was decided to evaluate the potential for keeping the station at High Tower, using alternative power (e.g. solar with back-up generator) or whether to move the station. Bob will research the cost of moving the station (e.g. to the Athabasca Lookout). Rick and Bettina will discuss alternative sites with Harry Benders (the AENV Auditor who viewed potential sites with Bob).

5. Other Business

Greg Swain asked AENV about adjusting analyzers to record the full range, so that they record levels that exceed AENV Ambient Air Quality Guidelines. He pointed out that when the analyzers are calibrated to record very high levels, they lose the resolution needed to record the small changes at the usual levels monitored. Rick said that for compliance monitoring, the analyzers must record the full scale; Bettina will give Greg the requirements.

The meeting ended at approximately 1:15 p.m.

File No. 3125-26-05-WS1
October 15, 1996

Eric Peake
Program Manager
West Central Airshed Society
P.O. Box 6360
Drayton Valley, Alberta
T7A 1R8

Dear Mr. Peake:

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance, Alberta Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (AAAQMS) has identified monitoring locations throughout the province to provide data in support of health and ecological effects assessments, on the provincial scale of representativeness. When an AAAQMS site lies within a zone, the zone is responsible for the operation of that site and providing the data to AAAQMS. However, the provincial network, through Alberta Environmental Protection, is prepared to provide the capital equipment for those designated provincial sites. The background site of Hinton has been designated a provincial site and in lieu of providing the equipment for that station, we are prepared to make available the following items:

- 2 - ozone monitors, Bendix model 8002
- 1 - wind speed and direction system, Athabasca Research
- 1 - global solar radiation, Epply model 8-48
- 1 - trailer c/w meteorological tower
- 1 - precipitation sampler, MIC type AU
- 1 - sulphur dioxide monitor, Teco model 43

The above assets are located in Edmonton and items will be operational at pickup. The following guidelines apply to the loan to the zone:

- a) the serial numbers will be verified at time of pick up and confirmed annually by letter
- b) the items remain the property of Alberta Environmental Protection
- c) the items shall be returned to AEP, should operational requirements develop, within 90 days of written notice
- d) items will be returned to AEP in a condition similar to when received
- e) WCAS is responsible for the on site setup and installation of equipment
- f) WCAS is responsible for ongoing operation and maintenance of the shelter and equipment
- g) WCAS will budget for upgrades and/or replacement

Please contact John Torneby at 427-0922 to make the necessary arrangements for the long term transfer of equipment to the West Central Airshed Society.

Sincerely,

R.P. Angle
Branch Head

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