

Final Minutes



Ambient Monitoring Strategic Planning Team Meeting #22

Date: Tuesday March 12, 2007
Time: 9:30 – 3:30
Place: ConocoPhillips' office
17th floor, N.E., Room 1.01
Gulf Canada Square, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

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In attendance:

Name	Organization
Brian Free	CASA
David McCoy	Husky Oil / Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Bob Myrick	Alberta Environment
Ken Omotani	TransAlta Utilities
Roxanne Pettipas	ConocoPhillips Canada / Canadian Assoc. of Petroleum Producers
Kim Sanderson	CASA
David Spink	Prairie Acid Rain Coalition
B.J. Vickery	Lafarge Canada Inc / Alberta Chamber of Resources

Regrets:

Name	Organization
Brian Wiens	Environment Canada
Chris Severson-Baker	Pembina Institute
Findlay MacDermid	RAPID
Ian Peace	RAPID
James Vaughan	Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Keith Murray	Alberta Forest Products Association
Kevin Warren	Parkland Airshed
Matthew Dance	Clean Air Strategic Alliance
Merry Turtiak	Alberta Health and Wellness
Mike Pawlicki	Lafarge Canada Inc.
Mike Queenan	RAPID
Rob Bioletti	Alberta Environment

Action Items:

Task	Who	When
9.2: Load the data to the CASA data warehouse and provide the working group with access information.	Matthew Dance	ASAP
14.1: Forward the parameters that are included in the SO ₂ and NO _x forecasts to Matthew and the team.	Bob Myrick	Ongoing
18.8: Compile a short document that cross-references workshop questions to sections of the report where these questions are addressed, or to other documents as appropriate.	Matthew Dance	ASAP
21.1: Bob Myrick will continue to investigate the regulatory requirements of the proposed system.	Bob Myrick	For April 10 meeting

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Task	Who	When
21.5: Brian Wiens and Bettina Mueller will contact the US EPA to learn more about the work they are doing on air monitoring network design.	Brian Wiens and Bettina Mueller	For April 10 meeting
21.6: Roxanne Pettipas will create a summary of the highlights of the Jurisdictional Review.	Roxanne Pettipas	For April 10 meeting
21.7: Bob Myrick will provide the Operations Steering Committee with an update on our strategic plan and will report back any suggestions they may offer. Brian Free will make arrangements for the OSC meeting.	Bob Myrick, Brian Free	For next OSC meeting
22.1: Brian Free will follow up with AB Health & Wellness to confirm their level of interest and involvement with this Team.	Brian Free	For April 10 meeting
22.2: David Spink and Bob Myrick will prepare an email to Dr. Neil Cape to describe in more detail, the services this Team is seeking.	David Spink/Bob Myrick	For April 10 meeting
22.3: Bob Myrick will send Brian Free the latest Figure 3 and associated text.	Bob Myrick	ASAP
22.4 David Spink will send Brian Free the RWDI report.	David Spink	ASAP
22.5: Brian Free/Matthew Dance to ask Brian Weins to fill out this table and add more text.	Brian Free	ASAP
22.6: The Team's recommendation regarding the preferred system management model will be added to the Agenda for the next Team meeting.	Brian Free	For April 10 meeting
22.7: New agenda item for Team's next meeting -- Funding.	Brian Free	For April 10 meeting
22.8: Kim Sanderson will contact the Pembina Institute for existing information about funding approaches in other jurisdictions.	Kim Sanderson	ASAP

Roxanne Pettipas convened the meeting at 10 am.
 Brian Free and Bob Myrick joined at 10:15am (Flight delayed.)
 BJ Vickery joined at 10:30am (Earlier commitment.)

1. Administration

a. Introductions

Introductions were made informally.

b. Approve agenda and meeting purpose

The agenda and meeting purpose were reviewed. Bob Myrick added the upcoming presentation to the Operations Steering Committee as another item under Other Business. The agenda was approved with that change.

c. Approve minutes

The February 13 Minutes were approved as distributed, following the review of the Action Items.

d. Review action items

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9.2: Matthew to load the data to the CASA data warehouse and provide the working group with access information. **Carry forward.**

14.1: Matthew to forward the parameters that are included in the SO₂ and NO_x forecasts to the team. **Ongoing function.** Bob Myrick offered to assume responsibility for this Action Item.

18.8: Matthew to compile a short document that cross-references workshop questions to sections of the report where these questions are addressed, or to other documents as appropriate. **Carry forward.** Comments and questions have already been incorporated into the report to the satisfaction of the Team. Brian Free will confirm with Matthew Dance whether a separate document is still needed for workshop participants.

19.2: Matthew to invite the DC9 (Directors' Committee for the Alberta's Regional Health Authorities) to join the team. **Done.** Matthew has emailed a member of that committee and is awaiting a response. The offer has been made and no follow-up is required.

Action Item 22.1: Brian Free will follow up with AB Health & Wellness to confirm their level of interest and involvement.

20.6: The Implementation and Funding group will write out the assumptions and rationale for each of the proposals or recommendations. **Done.**

21.1: Bob Myrick will continue to investigate the regulatory requirements of the proposed system. **Carry forward.**

21.2: Bob Myrick's draft on current air monitoring costs will be distributed to Project Team members. **Done.**

21.3: All sub-groups are to submit their reports to Matthew Dance. He will forward them to Kim Sanderson, so she can incorporate them into the Project Team's main report. **Done.**

21.4: David Spink and Bettina Mueller will contact consultant Neil Cape and determine how much work is needed to complete the top-down component of the strategic plan, and how much his services would cost. **Done.** David Spink reported that he briefly talked to Dr. Cape about our project and Dr. Cape expressed interest in helping us.

Discussion:

- Discussed Dr. Cape's expertise in acid deposition and how nutrient (nitrogen) deposition is also important. Agreed that Dr. Cape has good connections and will likely engage other colleagues to provide the broader expertise, if required.
- General agreement that Dr. Cape will provide a valuable, independent perspective that will enhance the credibility of this Team's recommendations.
- Discussed whether to have Dr. Cape begin with a "clean slate", i.e. no reference to current monitoring. Agreed that some background on the current system is needed, but not a lot of detail.

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- Should ask Dr. Cape to include his interpretation and not just a statement of the ideal monitoring system. In other words, how could his suggestions for ambient monitoring be applied in the current Alberta context? Otherwise, this Team will have to spend time and energy to interpret Dr. Cape's input in order to make it useful.

Based on today's meeting, David agreed to work with Bob Myrick to put the Team's request into writing with more detail on required outputs.

Action Item 22.2: David Spink and Bob Myrick will prepare an email to Dr. Neil Cape to describe in more detail, the services this Team is seeking.

21.5: Brian Wiens and Bettina Mueller will contact the US EPA to learn more about the work they are doing on air monitoring network design. **Carry forward.** No new information.

21.6: Roxanne Pettipas will create a summary of the highlights of the Jurisdictional Review. **Carry forward.** Roxanne confirmed that she will soon be producing this summary.

21.7: Bob Myrick will provide the Operations Steering Committee with an update on our strategic plan and will report back any suggestions they may offer. Brian Free will make arrangements for the OSC meeting. **Carry Forward.** The Operations Steering Committee will be meeting on April 2 or 4 to hear Bob Myrick's update on the strategic plan. Other AMSP team members will be advised of the final date and location, and invited to join Bob at the OSC meeting.

2. Review of March 1 draft report

Brian Free led the section-by-section review of the current draft. Kim Sanderson took detailed notes to allow her to make the necessary changes for the next draft. Notes were also collected on an electronic flip chart.

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Flip Chart Notes

[Note from Brian Free: Some guessing, as legibility of the printed sheets was variable.]

General Comments

Pg 1

Good job of editing

Many good pieces. May need re-ordering. "Meat" is near the end, now.

Get the "meat" up front

Difficult to address all questions from workshop. Can't answer all of the questions.

(Did the workshop deal with N-deposition or odours? Should this plan?)

Need a crisper document. Some material → Appendices.

Start with the strategic level. Implementation details in a separate section.

Funding should be addressed.

Want to circulate a draft soon to colleagues.

Pg 2

More general comments...

Good example - the RWDI Report for Wood Buffalo Env. Assoc. - has a figure showing the "big" air management system. We can explain which part we are dealing with.

Action Item: Bob Myrick will send Brian Free the latest Figure 3 and associated text.

Action Item: David Spink will send Brian Free the RWDI report.

Section by Section Review of Report

(1) Introduction

Short overview of 1995 strategic plan.

Shortened description of current air monitoring system. Keep Figures 1 & 2 here.

and description of Air Quality Management System & where air monitoring fits -- "the big picture".

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(2) New Ambient Air Monitoring Strategic Plan

Still relevant

The "big picture" view of the system → Introduction

Keep the Vision, Goals and Objectives together

Move the "Multi-stakeholder Process " elsewhere.

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(3.0) Main Parts of the Strategy

- introduce the Strategy and its parts.

(3.1) Assessing Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Sites.

- move the site-selection tools to an Appendix.

- keep Figure 11 and remaining text.

(4.0) Design of the Monitoring Network

- Networks

- Site selection

- Parameters and methods

(5.0) Data and Information Management System

- keep Figure 12, but revise/simplify

- More about acceptable methodologies for different objectives, e.g. trend analysis, spatial analysis, etc.

5.1 Knowledge Systems - okay

5.2 Current Data Management → Appendix

5.3 New System

- Identify gaps

- Revised Figure 12

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5.4 Turning Data into Information

- Needs another Recommendation at the end.

5.5 Communication Beyond the Web

- okay

5.6 Data & Information Management

3 options: Status quo

Status quo plus

Command & control

} Cover under section
6.0 Systems Management

5.7 Responsibilities

Action Item: Brian Free/Matthew Dance to ask Brian Weins to fill out this table and add more text.

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(6.0) Systems Management - three scenarios (This is currently Section 7.)
(Bob M. described some additions to the current Section 6 that will become a new Section 4.)

(7.1→6.1) Background

(7.2→6.2) Potential Models

Action Item: The Team's recommendation regarding the preferred model for systems management will be added to the Agenda for the next Team meeting.

(7.3→6.3) Costs and Funding

Action Item: New agenda item for Team's next meeting → Funding.

Possible funding approaches:

(Also see Jurisdictional Review for more examples)

1. As proposed for the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program
2. Environmental surcharge on gasoline
3. Government's current revenue.

Action Item: Kim Sanderson will contact the Pembina Institute for existing information about funding approaches in other jurisdictions.

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(8. → 6.4) Continuous Improvement & Process Assessment.
Move current Section 8 into Section 6 as the new 6.4

Pg 8

Parking Lot (Items to be addressed in the new and improved draft)

Section 2.2 Multi-stakeholder Process: Where does it fit?

Revisit Figure 3 and revise, if necessary.

Will Section 4 fit under "Site Selection"?

Sections 4, 5 and 6 all need recommendations from this Team.

3. Exploring the Top-Down approach....

This agenda item was deferred to the next team meeting.

4. Workplan

Discussed the need for further public consultations:

- Could simply circulate a completed next draft to last year's workshop participants.
- May need more opportunity for discussion than that, in order to satisfy Government that the process provided adequate opportunity for input.
- Will consider having another workshop in September, after getting feedback from the Board. This workshop will be at a "higher" level. It will be more a presentation of the Team's strategy, seeking their reaction, rather than soliciting new ideas.

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5. Other Business

5.1 Presentation to the Operations Steering Committee.

Bob Myrick will give the OSC an update and seek their comments on the options our Team is considering. All team members are welcome to attend.

6. Next Meeting

Members are pleased at the current progress being made. The Team will continue to meet approximately every 3 weeks with the intention of presenting the Strategic Plan to the Board in September.

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2007 in Edmonton.

This meeting adjourned at about 3:30pm.