

Final Minutes

Operations Steering Committee Meeting #18

Date: Monday, April 2, 2007
Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Place: CASA Office

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In attendance:

Michael Bisaga	Lakeland Industry & Community Assoc.
Glynis Carling*	Imperial Oil
Tom Dickson	Alberta Environment
Jillian Flett	CASA
Brian Free	CASA
Shane Lamden	Nova Chemical
Bob Myrick	Alberta Environment
Janine Ross	Alberta Environment
Bob Scotten	West Central Airshed Society
John Squarek	Cdn Association of Petroleum Producers
Merry Turtiak	AB Health & Wellness
Kevin Warren*	Peace/Parkland Airshed Zones
Brian Wiens	Environment Canada

* Attended via teleconference

Regrets:

Keith Murray	Alberta Forest Products Assoc.
Albert Poulette	Alberta Environment
Sonia Simard	CAPP

Action Items:

Action	Who	When
18.1: Albert Poulette will be asked whether he wishes to remain on the Committee, and if not, who might be a suitable replacement.	Brian Free	By next meeting
18.2: Michael Bisaga will send a copy of the LICA agreement letter to Brian Free for forwarding to the Committee.	Michael Bisaga	ASAP
18.3 A copy of the Performance Measures manual will be forwarded to Committee members.	Brian Free	ASAP
18.4: The draft report from the Ambient Monitoring Strategic Planning team will be made available for Committee review.	Brian Free/Bob Myrick	By next meeting
18.5: Bob Myrick's PowerPoint presentation will be sent to the entire team.	Brian Free	ASAP
18.6: Shane Lamden will follow up on CCPA invoice.	Shane Lamden	ASAP
18.7 Tom Dickson will follow up with Environment Canada regarding their financial support for the CASA	Tom Dickson	ASAP

Action	Who	When
data base.		
18.8: Updates on proposed future data format changes, and information on industry data inclusion into the CASA data warehouse will be provided at the next data providers' meeting to be held in 2007.	Bob Myrick/Janine Ross	In 2007
18.9: An updated AENV org chart will be distributed to the Committee.	Brian Free	ASAP
18.10: The Committee will be polled for a meeting in June.	Brian Free	April

Tom Dickson convened the meeting at about 9:35 am.

1 Administration

a) Introductions

Members introduced themselves. Kevin Warren and Glynis Carling were on the telephone.

Committee membership:

Tom Dickson noted that Albert Poulette's duties may have changed at AENV and he may not wish to remain on this Committee. As well, Sian Pascoe of CAPP has left this Committee.

Action Item 18.1: Albert Poulette will be asked whether he wishes to remain on the Committee, and if not, who might be a suitable replacement.

b) Approve agenda and meeting objectives.

The agenda and meeting objectives were approved as written.

c) Review Meeting # 17 action items.

No Minutes have been produced from the last meeting. Kevin Warren asked about two Action Items from the March, 2006 Meeting #16.

16.2 Send LICA agreement letter to OSC members.

Michael Bisaga reported that he had done this and will forward a copy to Kevin and anyone else who can't find it.

16.7 regarding the manual for performance measure calculations.

Marianne English has retired from CASA and Brian Free has taken over responsibility for performance measures. He'll see that the manual is forwarded to airshed managers.

Action Item 18.2: Michael Bisaga will send a copy of the LICA agreement letter to Brian Free for forwarding to the Committee.

Action Item 18.3 A copy of the Performance Measures manual will be forwarded to Committee members.

2 Ambient Monitoring Strategic Plan

Bob Myrick of Alberta Environment presented the main issues being addressed by the Ambient Monitoring Strategic Planning Team. Other AMSP team members present included Brian Wiens, Kevin Warren and Merry Turtiak.

Bob began with some background on the current strategic plan and the need for a new one. He then described the process being followed by the AMSP team and the accomplishments to date. These include a review of the approach taken in 11 other jurisdictions and a workshop last June.

Vision and objectives of the new Strategic Plan

The vision is to produce an integrated monitoring system that characterizes ambient air quality for the entire province.

Bob reviewed the eight monitoring objectives of the plan:

To collect data and information that can be used:

1. To assess the impact of outdoor air quality on human health
2. To assess the impact of air quality on ecosystem health
3. To characterize air quality entering or leaving the province
4. To characterize background air quality in Alberta
5. To determine compliance with ambient air quality objectives caused by pollutant emissions from industry
6. To represent spatial gaps in air quality monitoring for Alberta
7. For data assessments associated with CASA Frameworks and state of the environment reporting
8. To understand sources of anthropogenic and biogenic emissions and their impact on air quality relative to ambient objectives

Discussion:

- For Objective 5, it was suggested that the objective end after the word, “objectives” and delete the remaining phrase (“caused by pollutant emissions from industry”). Industry is not the only source of emissions.
- It was suggested that Objective 6 be moved to the bottom of the list, because gaps will be determined by the achievement (or not) of the other seven objectives. And reword this objective to “address spatial gaps”, rather than “represent spatial gaps”.
- Split Objective 7 into two; one for the CASA Frameworks and another for state-of-environment reporting.

Bob reviewed the design of the monitoring network, based on population, on ecosystems, on the needs of the PM & ozone framework, regarding cross-boundary transport, general background monitoring and spatial gaps.

Discussion

- It was observed that this is a top-down approach to system design, whereas the airsheds develop their monitoring networks more from the “bottom up” based on local needs. These

two approaches will meet somewhere in the middle. There needs to be good integration of the two approaches.

- His slide on population-based monitoring referred to “Hot spot” monitoring. It was suggested that this be changed to “areas of concern”. As well, airsheds should be consulted if any changes to airshed boundaries are contemplated as community populations change over time.
- Industrial compliance monitoring at the fenceline will be incorporated into the system. The committee supports this and agrees that requirements for fenceline monitoring should be assessed to optimize its value and avoid duplication with other stations.

Bob Myrick explained that all monitoring data will be available via the Internet and that there will be a move from voluntary to mandatory reporting. Other forms of information will also be developed. The monitoring system will also provide public notification of air quality “events” on a 24/7 basis.

Bob gave an overview of the current capital costs and operating costs of the network, totaling about \$40 million.

Discussion

- A piechart showed the contribution of industry, airsheds, AENV and Environment Canada to this funding. The Committee recommends that the industry contribution through the airsheds should also be illustrated to more accurately reflect the total contribution of industry to air monitoring.
- It was reported that Airshed representatives met recently with Minister Renner and funding was discussed. The Minister appeared to be somewhat open to the suggestion that a portion of the current gasoline tax be used to support airsheds.

Bob described the three approaches to management of the monitoring system being examined by the AMSP team:

1. Status Quo
2. Multi-stakeholder approach
3. Traditional approach

Discussion

- Airshed resources are already stretched. Will this new strategy require even more effort?
- AENV has the resources, experience and legislative authority to carry this forward. Perhaps the Government should implement this, with CASA advising.
- How does the Airsheds Council fit in?

Bob reported that the AMSP team was leaning towards having a multi-stakeholder group lead the implementation of the ambient monitoring system. Some members agreed, but others felt that the provincial government should be responsible for implementing the monitoring system, with advice coming from a multi-stakeholder group.

Conclusions

- Generally, the OSC supports the proposed multi-stakeholder approach. Should we also be responsible for a review of the monitoring strategy, every 3-5 years?

- Members agreed that this Operations Steering Committee can serve as the multi-stakeholder “implementation team” identified in the new strategic plan. Some adjustment to the membership of this committee may be needed.
- The OSC wants to review the draft strategy by June in order to provide meaningful input before it is sent to the Board. A workshop may be helpful.

Action Item 18.4: The draft report from the Ambient Monitoring Strategic Planning team will be made available for Committee review.

Action Item 18.5: Bob Myrick’s PowerPoint presentation will be sent to the entire team.

3 CASA Data Warehouse

Janine Ross reviewed the 2006 expenditures. By the end of December, \$89,840 had been spent, leaving \$60,995 to carry over to 2007.

In the proposed 2007 budget, there is an increase for website updates and modifications. However, there is a larger decrease in monies required for data loading. New budget items include preparation of the database for industry data (\$50,000) and a contingency of \$10,000 for unplanned items. The total proposed budget is \$144,302.

It was noted that some monies promised, have not yet been received. The Alberta Forest Products Association has not paid, although they committed to funding under the initial plan. Money from the AFPA are not included in the budget numbers. At the October meeting of the OSC, Shane Lamden indicated he would recommend funding from Canadian Chemical Producers’ Assoc. to be submitted for 2006 and they were invoiced by CASA. To date, however funding has not been received. Their monies were accrued in accounts receivable and \$\$\$ were included in budget numbers.

Action Item 18.6: Shane Lamden will follow up on the CCPA (Cdn Chemical Producers’ Assoc.) invoice.

Action Item 18.7: Tom Dickson will follow up with Environment Canada regarding their financial support for the CASA data base.

Janine reported that a major task in 2007 for the CASA data warehouse would be the inclusion of industry data. One issue was to determine the most efficient way of handling these new data submissions. Since industry data is subject to approval requirements it must be submitted to EMS for compliance checks. It does not make sense for industry to submit data to the CASA data warehouse prior to having compliance checks done in EMS. It was decided to have industry submit data electronically to the EMS system. As is currently done with CEMS data, compliance checks would be done, industry would sign off on the data, indicating its acceptance and the data would be loaded into the EMS database. Industry ambient data will then be transferred to the CASA data warehouse. The EMS Database will need to be modified to accommodate this new role and AENV will pay for these changes.

Janine explained that industry ambient data is currently submitted to AENV in paper format, then entered manually into EMS (summary data only). There is no public web interface available to display this information. The intent is to have industry submit data electronically into EMS, where compliance checks will be carried out, and use the CASA data warehouse as the web interface to disseminate the data and information. This would provide a more complete picture of ambient air monitoring information in the province, as the CASA data warehouse would contain data and information from airsheds, government and industry stations. Data format would be a modified version of the CEMS format. The advantages of the CEMS format over the current cdef/idef format; it provides more flexibility, i.e. more information could be collected, and many industries that would submit ambient data currently provide CEMS data to EMS and are familiar with the format. As a result of this new approach, at some future date, airshed monitoring data would be submitted to EMS in the modified CEMS format, not to the data warehouse in cdef/idef format as currently done.

Action Item 18.8: Updates on proposed future data format changes, and information on industry data inclusion into the CASA data warehouse will be provided at the next data providers meeting to be held in 2007.

4 Other Business and Next Meetings

Tom Dickson explained some recent changes to the structure of Alberta Environment – It is described as a “re-alignment” and not a re-organization. One noteworthy change is that the regional air monitoring staff have been pulled into the Monitoring Division, so that all monitoring staff report to Director Bob Stone.

Action Item 18.9: An updated AENV org chart will be distributed to the Committee.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held before the summer “break”.

Action Item 18.10: The Committee will be polled for a meeting date in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.