

Clean Air Strategic Alliance Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2025
Microsoft Teams Conferencing



In attendance:

CASA Board Directors and Alternates:

Italics denotes an alternate attending while their sectors' director attended.

Ann Baran, NGO – Rural
Brent Korobanik, Industry – Mining
Dan Moore, Industry – Forestry
Danlin Su, NGO – Urban
David Spink, NGO – Urban
Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake, Government –
Samson Cree Nation
James Guthrie, Industry – Electricity Generation
Jason Kinakin, Industry – Utilities
Leigh Allard, NGO – Health
Lindsay Campbell, Industry – Oil and Gas Large
Producers

Martin Van Olst, Government – Federal
Melody Garner-Skiba, Industry – Agriculture
Michelle Belisle, Industry – Petroleum Products
(joined 9:40)
Naomi Tercier, Industry – Mining
Patrick McDonald, Government – Provincial
Government – Environment
Ruth Yanor, NGO – Industrial
Shane Lamden, Industry – Chemical
Manufacturers
Andre Asselin, CASA Executive Director

CASA Staff:

Alec Carrigy, Katrina Calon, Katie Duffett

Guests:

Curtis Horning, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Kara Westerlund, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Karla Reesor, Alberta Airsheds Council
Sahaj Kaur, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Sharon Willianen, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Terence Ko, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

Presenters:

Andre Asselin, *Project Identification Exercise (Agenda Item 3)*
Ruth Yanor, *Understanding Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering in Alberta Project Team (Agenda Item 4)*

Regrets:

Mark McGillivray, Industry – Utilities
Rob Hoffman, Industry – Petroleum Products

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Executive Summary

Leigh Allard's current term as the executive officer representing the NGO sector group has expired and Ruth Yanor has been selected to replace her on the executive committee. The Government sector has reappointed Patrick McDonald. Both will serve two-year terms until the end of December 2027 meeting.

The board continued project selection discussions from the last board meeting. Since that time, GoA had met internally, reviewed, and discussed the project ideas, and identified odour management and Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives as two opportunities that aligned well with their current priorities. They presented these ideas to the board with additional suggestions and sought input from the board on these topics. GoA will incorporate the feedback and refine statements of opportunity for these potential projects for review at the April board meeting. Other project ideas were also discussed, and the board will await statements of opportunity from GoA and any other sectors before striking any Working Groups to develop terms of reference.

The board received an information presentation from the Understanding Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering in Alberta project team. Partial funding for the information gathering stage of the project has been secured from CASA's project funds via executive committee decision, and a contribution from the Canadian Fuels Association. The team will prepare to proceed with grant applications now and consider modifying the project scope in April 2026 to match available funding if the full project budget has not been secured.

Information reports were provided and there was opportunity to ask questions. The next meeting will be held in Edmonton on April 16, 2026, and will include the Annual General Meeting and board meeting.

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Meeting Summary

Leigh Allard convened the business meeting at 9:17 a.m.

1 Convene Meeting

Participants were welcomed to the meeting.

Leigh Allard chaired the meeting and began with a land acknowledgement and Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake opened with a prayer. Jason Kinakin was welcomed as a new board member and will be an alternate for the Utilities sector.

The draft agenda was included in the meeting package. There were no changes to the agenda.

Decision: The agenda was approved by consensus.

2 Administration

2.1 Meeting summary from the September 11, 2025, Board Meeting

Minor clarifying edits were submitted following the meeting and incorporated in this board meeting package.

There were no questions or comments.

Decision: The board approved the summary of the September 11, 2025, board meeting by consensus and the summary will be posted to the website.

2.2 Review actions from the September 11, 2025, Board Meeting

A written update on the September actions was included in the meeting package.

There were no questions or comments.

2.3 Approve the 2026 core budget

The proposed 2026 core budget and its supporting assumptions were included in the meeting package. The executive committee reviewed the budget in detail at their meeting last month and recommended the board approve it.

Andre asked for questions or concerns about budget or the assumptions used in its development.

Discussion

- **Q:** Given the funds that CASA has carried over from previous core grants are insufficient to meet all of next year's budget requirements, are we expecting additional funds from GoA once the carry-over funds are exhausted?
 - **A:** GoA is informed of CASA's financial status for 2026.
 - **C:** Discussions for the 2026-2027 GoA budget are underway. The work CASA has been doing is being communicated internally within GoA.

Decision: The board approved the 2026 core budget by consensus.

2.4 Approve the 2026 operational plan

The executive committee prepared the 2026 operational plan. It is based on the existing workload being carried into the following year and identifies opportunities and timelines for new work as projects are completed. The meeting package includes details on the expected workload for 2026 for project teams, the board and executive committee. It does not include all the work staff undertakes. The executive committee recommends that the board approve the draft 2026 operational plan.

Discussion

- **Q:** There is nothing listed in the operational plan on actions towards maintaining and creating new relationships. Do we need to put in something like interest-based negotiation training or bringing presenters to the CASA board to achieve these goals?
 - **A:** There are elements of maintaining and creating new relationships in both the recently approved Performance Reporting System and the Multi-year Communications Strategy, and CASA will be doing these things and reporting on them, though they are not reflected as stand-alone pieces in the operational plan.

Decision: The board approved the 2026 operational plan by consensus.

2.5 Approve meeting dates for 2026

This item is to approve CASA board meeting dates and events in 2026. The executive committee proposed three meetings, on or about the same weeks as over the last few years.

The AGM will be held in April as usual, though the annual recognition event and field tour will be shifted to September to align with the meeting in Calgary.

The proposed meeting dates were included in the meeting package. In-person meetings are preferred, but remote options to participate are available for all board meetings.

Discussion:

- There was some discussion about the meeting dates, with concerns that September is a busy time and that some members would need to stay two nights to attend.
 - The board decided to leave the dates as is but asked members to please respond early to meeting invites to help assess if changes need to be made. Board members were reminded that remote participation and having alternate directors attend are options to address scheduling challenges.

Decision: The board approved the 2026 meeting dates by consensus.

2.6 Appoint executive committee representatives

This item is to appoint the executive committee representatives for two-year terms.

Ruth Yanor was appointed as the NGO representative on the executive committee through the end of 2027. The board thanked Leigh Allard for serving two terms on the executive committee. The Government sector reappointed Patrick McDonald as the representative for another two-year term, ending at the end of 2027. Reappointments require the board's approval.

Decision: The board approved Patrick McDonald's reappointment as the Government sector representative on the executive committee.

3 Project Identification Exercise

The board continued the project identification exercise that began at the September board meeting. The goal is to identify the next areas of work for CASA to start a working group in April 2026 and for a new project team to be struck in September 2026.

Andre reviewed the progress that was made at the September workshop and invited GoA to share information about whether their priorities aligned with any of the current project ideas, which several board members noted would be helpful is choosing the next project areas.

GoA delivered the following remarks on their priorities:

- The September workshop was a helpful exercise, and the outcomes were shared with the Air Policy team at GoA who provided context on work they are conducting. There are two potential projects for CASA that would complement what is being advanced internally in GoA, renewal of the CASA odour guide, and Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAQO) substance prioritization.
- **Odour Guide Renewal:** Sharon Willianen, Director of the Air Policy Section, spoke to the benefits of revising CASA's Good Practices Guide for Odour Management. The existing guide was published in 2015. Odour is highly perceptible and subjective making it a frequent source of concern and conflict. There were 1,100 odour incidents called in to the Environment and Dangerous Goods Emergencies Hotline in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Recently, EPA held four internal workshops to discuss the past, present, and future of odour management. This exercise offered a reminder and brought awareness of the resource to staff across numerous departments and agencies. The existing Guide provides a solid foundation for understanding and managing odour issues, but things have changed over the past 10 years. Some updates to consider are:
 - policy and regulatory updates
 - ambient air quality objectives and odour standards have evolved
 - sector specific requirements such as the Code of Practices for compost facilities
 - Directive 84: Requirements for Hydrocarbon Emission Controls and Gas Conservation in the Peace River Area
 - new ambient air quality guidelines for total reduced sulphur

Some examples of odour work that could be reviewed in an update of the Guide include:

- ongoing work in Fort MacKay with the Fort MacKay Air Quality and Odours Advisory Committee
- cold heavy oil production issues in the Peace River area

Additionally, there are emerging issues in odour management such as:

- cannabis production
- advanced composting with biodigesters
- closer proximity of industrial and agricultural operations to communities
- expectations for transparent complaint reporting and digital reporting tools

New technology is emerging and reviewing these could help Alberta stay ahead of emerging practices and encourage future standardization. Some technology to be considered includes:

- real-time sensors
- electronic noses
- predictive modeling
- digital complaint platforms

CASA can uniquely offer sector specific guidance, and a renewed Guide could include specific scenarios, making the Guide more actionable and relevant for diverse industries. Odour remains an ongoing issue, and a refreshed Guide could be a great project for consideration.

- **AAAQO Substance Prioritization:** Terence Ko, Senior Manager of Ambient Air Policy, Air Policy Section spoke to the benefits of a project on Alberta's Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQOs). In the interest of an effective and efficient system, a consistent substance list across the province is desired. There are more than 50 substances listed across AAAQOs and Alberta Ambient Air Quality Guidelines (AAAQGs), and many have been in place for a significant amount of time without any revision. Additionally, many may have been developed for reasons that no longer apply, either due to new data or since a regulatory setting no longer applies. As a result, they would like to propose the CASA board assist GoA via this project in getting perspectives of substance prioritization on a sector basis, and possibly a consensus basis. As a possibility, the process could prioritize five parameters and or metrics to be considered. These are high level considerations currently, and feedback and comments on this suggestion are welcomed.

Discussion:

- **Q:** How many projects are usually running at one time?
 - **A:** We typically have staff capacity to support two project teams and another initiative, possibly an ad hoc group or working group. As the Dust team completes its work, we will be ramping up the next project team to begin in September.
- **Q:** For the AAAQO potential project, why is there a focus on five substances? Are those substances of interest already identified by GoA? It would be beneficial to know what evaluation criteria are important for the Air Policy team.

- **A:** The selection of a total of five substances for prioritization was based on the previous CASA project that looked at AAAQOs. There are not a particular five substances GoA is considering. GoA would be looking for input on what those substances may be based on the groups input.
- There is a strong interest in seeing change and improvements come from CASA's work. There is some hesitation to invest CASA's time and resources in an AAAQO project unless we know the information generated will be applied in policy.
 - It was acknowledged that CASA's strength and purpose is generating dialogue, sharing information, and seeking consensus rather than developing regulations per se. Working within GoA priorities is of value to ensure CASA's efforts are beneficial to air quality in the province.
- The Odour Guide needs to be updated. There is considerable information missing especially around the complaints process. The overlap of growing cities with industry and agriculture does lead to odour complaints, and public education around odour management and perceived health impacts is needed.
- The time investment in the Odour Guide renewal may also be less than a typical CASA project team, depending on the scope.

GoA will take the feedback from this discussion to develop a statement of opportunity for CASA to consider at the next meeting.

Following the discussion on the Odour Guide Renewal and AAQO Substance Prioritization as potential projects, the board carried on discussing other project options.

- Hosting webinars to share information would address many of the other project ideas. There would be considerable value to the public and to CASA in meeting Objective 3.1 of the Strategic Plan while raising the profile of the organization. There is budget available internally to support this initiative and raise the organization's profile so it may not be a stand-alone project but something for a communications role.
- The proposed Air Hub project is not a CASA project, and discussions should clarify that Alberta Airshed Council would lead a project on this, and they would gratefully accept CASA's help in its development. The Airsheds want the Air Hub, will support its creation, then make use of the resulting tools.
- The potential air literacy project is a challenging one to scope, given each project CASA does has some element of air literacy included. It can be noted that GoA can include some element of air literacy in the statement of opportunities developed for the AAAQO and Odour Guide renewal potential projects.
- **Q:** The potential project on methane emissions from landfills seems unique and a different type of project. Is it appropriate for CASA?
 - **A:** Given that it is a one-sector issue, possibly not. It might be interesting to hear updates on how methane is managed in a different format than a full project. The federal government budget does highlight methane regulation for landfills, so keeping tabs on this topic for a future board meeting, webinar, or information session is a good idea.

Decision: The board supported that the GoA would take the input from today's meeting to develop Statements of Opportunity and bring them forward at the April 2026 board meeting with the intent of launching a working group.

Action: The Government of Alberta will prepare statements of opportunity for potential projects related to updating the Odour Management Guide and AAAQOs for the board consider at the April 2026 meeting.

4 Understanding Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering in Alberta Project Team

Ruth Yanor, co-chair of the Understanding Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering in Alberta project team, presented an update on the team's progress.

Highlights from the presentation:

- Canadian Fuels Association has stepped up to contribute \$20,000 to this project.
- CASA's project funds have been committed by the executive committee for up to an additional \$20,000.
- The team has collected many resources for Objective 2: Compilation of Information on Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering and Reliability in Alberta. This section of the final report has started to be drafted and will be organized by themes to help categorize the information.
- The project team has also scoped a Request for Proposal for a consultant to fill in data gaps that remain after the progress made on Objective 2 thus far.

Discussion

- The team was commended on their fundraising efforts to date, and the offer from Alberta Lung to be a charity partner in grant applications was reiterated.

5 Information Reports and Opportunity for Questions

5.1 Executive Director's Report

An updated Executive Director's report was included in the supplementary package.

Discussion

- **Q:** Is it possible to include year-over-year comparisons of the quarterly financial updates in the Executive Director's report?
 - **A:** Yes, that change can be implemented going forward.

Action: Executive director will include year-over-year comparisons of the quarterly core expenses in the Executive Director's report.

5.2 CASA Sector Updates (including the GoA update)

Many of CASA's sectors provided updates to staff in advance of the meeting. The document is on SharePoint and included in the package.

Discussion

- **Q:** For the Petroleum products sector, is there a new regulation that came in for transloading facilities? It was relevant to the original odour guide development and perhaps this will address that concern going forward.
 - **A:** Yes, a new regulation was finalized, though it came out in the spring it has been in the works for several years. There are volatile organic compound regulations for all loading and transloading facilities above a certain threshold.
- **Q:** For the Mining sector, it was noted that a project mining in the eastern slopes was approved. I believe it is contentious; can you provide more info on this sensitive topic?
 - **A:** This can be pursued offline.
- **Q:** There was no GoA updated included in the meeting package, will one be forthcoming?
 - **A:** Yes, it will be provided after the meeting along with the minutes. It will include updates on upcoming work for 2026 such as:
 - Industrial Heartland Designated Industrial Zone, there is implementation guidance being developed that is anticipated to be finalized in 2026.
 - 2023 Status of Air Quality Report should be published early 2026 before the next CASA meeting. It will identify what is going on in the different air zones.
 - Air Quality Hub work with AAC is expected to result in a ‘what we heard’ report released at the end of the year. There was a lot of information gathered in engagement sessions via this joint project within our Resource Stewardship Division.
- **Q:** In the 2023 Status of Air Quality Report, is there any data that reflects reduced emissions during the COVID period when there was less transportation?
 - **A:** Unable to speak to that directly in this meeting, but details can be provided offline on that issue.
- Appreciation was expressed by many for the effort put into the sector updates. NGO and Industry appreciate GoA updates since they are useful to their members and sector, generating interesting questions and feedback. Many sectors provided updates for this meeting, and they were well received by all. Updates can be made anytime on the Board’s SharePoint site.

5.3 AWC Updates for the CASA Board

An update on the Alberta Water Council’s projects was provided in the meeting package. There were no questions.

5.4 Best Practices Guide for Dust Management in Alberta Project Team

An update on the team was provided in the meeting package.

Discussion

- **Q:** Have there been any specific challenges associated with the development of the Guide that are resulting in project delays?

- **A:** The consultant to date has provided a thorough technical report on dust management and dust sources but is lacking an introduction section that provides context and guidance on how to use all that valuable information. The co-chairs and project manager have met regularly and been working on developing this section, so those challenges are being addressed.
- **Q:** Does this delay have any implications on the project budget?
 - **A:** No, we don't see a need for more funds for the project, just possibly an extension to the deadline to give the project team time to complete its work.

New/Other Business

No new or other business was identified when the agenda was approved.

It was noted that CASA's financial year-end cut off is December 15, 2025. Anyone submitting stakeholder support claim for 2025 is asked to do so ahead of this date.

Evaluation forms for the meeting will be sent out electronically and a link was posted in the meeting chat; please fill them out as they help the executive committee and staff plan future meetings.

The CASA Office will be closed from December 22, 2025, through January 2, 2026.

The next meeting will be held in Edmonton on April 16, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

The following action item(s) arose from the meeting:

Action: The Government of Alberta will prepare statements of opportunity for potential projects related to updating the Odour Management Guide and AAAQOs for the board consider at the April 2026 meeting.

Action: Executive director will include year-over-year comparisons of the quarterly core expenses in the Executive Director's report.

Action: Executive director will include year-over-year comparisons of the quarterly core expenses in the Executive Director's report.

The following decisions were made at this meeting:

Decision: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Decision: The board approved the summary of the September 11, 2025, board meeting by consensus and the summary will be posted to the website.

Decision: The board approved the 2026 core budget by consensus.

Decision: The board approved Patrick McDonald's reappointment as the Government sector representative on the executive committee.

Decision: The board supported that the GoA would take the input from today's meeting to develop Statements of Opportunity and bring them forward at the April 2026 board meeting with the intent of launching a working group.