

Final Minutes



Ambient Monitoring Strategic Planning Team Meeting #34

Date: Monday February 25, 2008
Time: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Place: CASA Office, Edmonton

In attendance:

Name	Stakeholder group
Brian Free	CASA
Bob Myrick	Alberta Environment
Ian Peace	Residents for Appropriate Power Industry Development
Roxanne Pettipas	ConocoPhillips
Kim Sanderson	CASA
David Spink	Prairie Acid Rain Coalition
Brian Wiens	Environment Canada
Mike Zemanek	Alberta Health and Wellness

With regrets:

Name	Stakeholder group
Michael Bisaga	Lakeland Industry and Community Assoc.
David McCoy	Husky
Findlay MacDermid	RAPID
Bettina Mueller	Alberta Environment
Keith Murray	Alberta Forest Products
Ken Omotani	TransAlta
Chris Severson-Baker	Pembina Institute
James Vaughan	ERCB
Kevin Warren	Parkland Airshed Management Zone

Action Items:

Action items	Who	Due Date
29.5: Revise steps used to calculate costs to include the extra costs of sampling in remote locations for the passive network.	Bob Myrick	March 3
31.2: Contact Carolyn Kolebaba, AAMD&C and Len Bracko, AUMA to ensure representatives can attend the workshop.	Brian Free	In progress
33.6: Draft text on mobile monitoring and emergency response monitoring for the report and for the appropriate topic summary.	Bob Myrick	March 3
33.9: The co-chairs and other team members as appropriate will brief the new Deputy Minister about informing the minister about the AMSP and funding.	Bob Myrick, Roxanne Pettipas	April
34.1: Forward costs related to remote sampling to Bob Myrick.	David Spink	Feb. 28

Action items	Who	Due Date
34.2: Draft a recommendation for teams developing CASA frameworks to consider air quality monitoring needs and provide direction to the Multi-stakeholder Implementation Committee.	David Spink	Feb. 28
34.3: Draft an email, to be sent by Roxanne and Bob, to co-chairs of other teams asking them to ensure at least one member of each team attends the upcoming workshop.	Brian Free	March 5
34.4: Advise Neil Cape that the reliability of precipitation monitoring to support the network won't be as good as it has been, and ask if his recommendation still stands.	Bob Myrick	Feb. 28
34.5: Contact Dr. Cape about a teleconference for 8:00 am on March 3, with David, Ian, Bob and Brian Free on the call.	Bob Myrick	Feb. 26
34.6: Draft a paragraph (or a table) to describe how each objective meets the goals of PP/CI and KCAC for incorporation into the topic summary.	Ian Peace	Feb. 28
34.7: Draft a paragraph and a recommendation on visibility.	Brian Wiens	Feb. 28
34.8: Combine the three recommendations on transboundary monitoring into one recommendation.	Kim Sanderson	Feb. 29
34.9: Draft a recommendation to add background monitoring upwind of large industrial complexes.	Kim Sanderson	Feb. 29
34.10: Revisit the costs and number of passives required under a scenario with a larger grid, and will modify the topic summary to add a short description of the grid size.	Bob Myrick	Feb. 28
34.11: Accept changes to the network topic summary, incorporate changes as they come in from others and make the changes assigned to her.	Kim Sanderson	Feb. 29
34.12: Talk to Ahmed Idriss, AENV, to find out more about the CFO team's recommendation 3 on monitoring.	Bob Myrick	Feb. 29
34.13: E-mail the team immediately with notice of the next meeting.	Brian Free	Feb. 25

Bob Myrick convened the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

1) Administration

a. Approve agenda and meeting purpose

Bob reviewed the meeting purpose and the agenda. The agenda was approved.

b. Approve minutes from Meeting #33.

Change "plan" to "monitoring" in action item 33.6 With that change, the Minutes from this meeting were approved.

c. Review action items from Meeting #33

Action items	Status
9.2: Brian Free to load team information to the CASA website	More information will be added

Action items	Status
and provide the working group with access information.	regarding the workshop, and this item will be considered done.
29.5: Bob to revise steps used to calculate costs to include the extra costs of sampling in remote locations for the passive network.	The entire network has been revised based on comments from Neil Cape. Bob has not revised costs for the passive network. New action 34.1: David will forward costs related to remote sampling to Bob.
31.2: Brian Free to contact Carolyn Kolebaba to ensure an AAMD&C representative can attend the workshop	Carry forward. Also contact Len Bracko, AUMA
31.10: Brian Free to send out invitations to the workshop.	Notice was sent Feb. 19 to all CASA stakeholders. Brian will confirm that AUMA is on the invitation list.
33.1: Bob Myrick to revise wording for recommendation for an emissions inventory, which will then be fit into the appropriate topic summary.	Done.
33.2: Bob will draft text on the acid deposition monitoring, along with a recommendation, and circulate to the team.	Done.
33.3: Bob will talk to Environment Canada about ways to measure visibility.	Discussed at this meeting. Two issues: internal visibility and cross-border effects. Wiens reported high interest in USA and described their “Improved Network”.
33.4: Bob and AENV staff will revise the human health monitoring section in light of the Cape recommendations and the team’s direction.	Done.
33.5: Bob, David and Ian will talk to Dr. Cape in the next week to get clarity on transboundary monitoring, then AENV will determine approximate costs.	Done.
33.6: Bob will draft text on mobile monitoring and emergency response monitoring for the report and for the appropriate topic summary.	Carry forward
33.7: Bob and David will revise the network topic summary after Bob revises the main section on the network and after they talk to Dr. Cape to get further clarification.	Done

Action items	Status
33.8: Bob will discuss with Peter Watson arranging a meeting with the new environment minister to discuss funding the AMSP.	Bob discussed this with senior managers. A briefing will be done after the election as DMs and ministers are likely to change. This action was slightly revised and incorporated to 33.9.
33.9: The co-chairs and other team members as appropriate will brief the new Deputy Minister about informing the minister about the AMSP and funding.	Carry forward
33.10: Bob will test with AENV whether principle #5 should be deleted.	Will test all principles; drop this action.
33.11: Brian will set up another teleconference, tentatively for Feb. 14 at 2:00, for the small group working on the funding formula (Mike, David, Ken, Kevin, Ian, and Bob).	Done
33.12: Bob will talk to the Government of Alberta representatives on the CFO team to get clarity on the draft recommendation.	Discussed under Item 3; see new action item 34.12.
33.13: Brian will poll for the next meeting date, considering Feb. 21, 22 and 25 in Edmonton.	Done

d) CASA Update

Brian Free provided a short update on CASA activities.

- The next CASA Board meeting is March 25 in Calgary.
- The Clean Air Strategy team had a workshop in early February and identified six initial priorities. Public consultation will be undertaken as part of the strategy development.
- The Confined Feeding Operations team is presenting its report to the Board in March. They have one recommendation regarding air quality monitoring around CFOs.
- The Flaring and Venting Team is reconvening and will determine if EUB Directive 60 is having the desired effect.
- The Human and Animal Health Team is preparing recommendations for the CASA board.
- The PM and Ozone Implementation team is monitoring development of the management plans being developed in some areas.
- CASA recently met with the Water Council to discuss possible collaboration.
- The Electricity Framework Review team is working to develop some new BATEA standards for power plants and will also be doing consultations.

The Team agreed to recommend that teams that are developing management frameworks also consider ambient monitoring needs and provide direction in the form of recommendations to the AMSP implementation team.

Action 34.2: David will draft a recommendation for teams developing CASA frameworks to consider the ambient monitoring needs associated with their framework and provide direction in the form of recommendations to the Multi-stakeholder Implementation Committee.

Action 34.3: Brian Free will draft an email, to be sent by Roxanne and Bob, to co-chairs of other teams asking them to ensure at least one member of each team attends the upcoming workshop.

2. Recommendations from Neil Cape

Bob reviewed the specific direction provided by Dr. Cape and briefly noted how and where his input and recommendations had been incorporated in the Network topic summary. The most recent version of Dr. Cape's report was previously distributed.

Dr. Cape notes that the current wet deposition network is inadequate and that areas of higher uncertainty should be addressed. He recommends a 3-5 year program to address the east-west disparity in rainfall to get a better understanding of wet deposition across Alberta. Also consider removing some urban stations for wet deposition.

The team was advised that precipitation quantity data reported by Environment Canada's climate network after 2006 have much greater uncertainty than previously and are scientifically questionable due to the lack of quality control. It was suggested that the team request a measurement of this uncertainty before proceeding with the transects. Neil Cape is probably expecting the precipitation data to be representative and should be apprised of this new information to determine if his recommendation still stands. It may be necessary to look at a permanent broader network (i.e., the one being proposed) to get reliable precipitation data. When deposition is calculated in the short term, information regarding precipitation and uncertainty needs to be factored in.

Action 34.4: Bob will advise Neil Cape that the reliability of precipitation monitoring to support the network won't be as good as it has been, and ask if his recommendation still stands.

David Spink advised that WBEA is testing resin samplers now for use at locations where samples can't be changed very often. They will share the results of this testing.

Bob noted that the Cape contract is with Alberta Environment and AENV has halted all contract work until the end of the fiscal year. Thus, Dr. Cape will submit his final report in April, rather than before the workshop. No feedback has been provided to him since the Feb. 21 draft and it would be timely to have another discussion with him to determine next steps.

The team agreed to provide Dr. Cape's draft report to workshop participants, but the main focus of discussion will be on the Network topic summary, having incorporated his recommendations into the summary.

Action 34.5: Bob will contact Dr. Cape about a teleconference for 8:00 am on March 3, with David, Ian, Bob and Brian Free on the call.

3. Review of the Network Topic Summary

The team reviewed the new draft of the topic summary “Network of Ambient Air and Deposition Monitoring Stations,” and Brian recorded changes to the document on screen.

Bob noted that there will be changes in cost to the human health (population-based) program based on the decision to remove the proposed four new stations; capital costs went down from \$6.6-million to \$5.3-million, and operating costs went down proportionally.

The team noted that ecosystem monitoring will be monitoring wet and dry deposition only, but decided to keep the name “ecosystem” to allow for future additions other parameters important of ecosystem health.

It was suggested that the team needs to address the concepts of pollution prevention, continuous improvement and keeping clean areas clean. These ideas are noted in the team’s terms of reference and many frameworks mention them. They should be reflected in the team’s documents and be part of what is presented at the workshop. These ideas appear in general terms in that the monitoring program collects data and information to be used in determining air quality and deposition with the intent of ensuring continuous improvement and keeping clean areas clean.

The team agreed to add a short preamble to the Vision topic summary, along with new text to be developed for each objective.

Action 34.6: Ian will draft a paragraph (or a table) to describe how each objective meets the goals of PP/CI and KCAC for incorporation into the topic summary.

The US is addressing visibility and intends that all class 1 areas (e.g., national parks, forest service reserves) will have pristine visibility by 2045, with visibility restored to the 1900s era. They measure visibility in two main ways: a transmissometer is used for long-path (3-5 km) visibility, and a nephelometer that measures light scattering. They want to be able to determine who is causing a reduction in visibility in class 1 areas so pressure can be exerted on implicated emitters when their licences come up for renewal. Environment Canada has been looking at the US work since a lot of the areas where visibility is an issue are near the US-Canada border, and at some point Canada will need to consider how to respond, so there may be a chance to collaborate. This is an emerging issue, particularly at international transboundary stations, but visibility monitoring will also need to be considered for boundary stations before the next AMSP is developed. Visibility in urban areas of Alberta is also a concern. Both methods being used in the US are relatively inexpensive and robust, and full installation could be done for about \$25,000.

The team agreed that visibility should be incorporated into the AMSP in the transboundary section, in a way that is compatible with the US.

Action 34.7: Brian Wiens will draft a paragraph and a recommendation on visibility.

Action 34.8: Kim will combine the three recommendations on transboundary monitoring into one recommendation.

Action 34.9: Kim will draft a recommendation to add background monitoring upwind of large industrial complexes.

The intent of provincial spatial scale monitoring is to fill in where other monitoring can't be done. It does not include what is being done in the airsheds. The team agreed that monitoring sites will be at lower density in some parts of the province because access is a challenge, and costs for a helicopter to change samplers every month would likely be prohibitive. It was suggested that the team look at a larger grid size of one degree by one degree.

Action 34.10: Bob will revisit the costs and number of passives required under a scenario with a larger grid, and will modify the topic summary to add a short description of the grid size.

With respect to the Industry Compliance Monitoring subprogram, it was agreed to add the following text just before the recommendation to make it clear how the proposal differs from the current situation:

This is a shift from the current approach of monitoring individual pollutants to an approach that looks at cumulative effects.

Action 34.11: Kim will accept changes to the network topic summary, incorporate changes as they come in from others and make the changes assigned to her.

The team discussed the CFO team's recommendation for monitoring in the vicinity of CFOs. There should be a process for bringing this issue to the monitoring "hopper" for consideration. However, it was noted that this is a short-term study and is really a sampling program rather than long-term monitoring. If we wanted a longer term program to see how CFOs are affecting air quality, that task would fall to the airshed. But if there is no airshed in the area, what happens? CFOs also are not part of the usual approvals process for dealing with air emissions. To include this work in the AMSP would mean having a long-term monitoring component.

Action 34.12: Bob will talk to Ahmed Idriss to find out more about the CFO team's recommendation 3 on monitoring.

4. Recommendation for an Emissions Inventory

The team discussed the long and short versions of the draft recommendation and agreed on the following compromise:

Recommendation: The provincial government develop and maintain a comprehensive GIS based provincial inventory of all emission sources that influence provincial air quality.

5. Review of the Other Workshop Topic Summaries

The team reviewed and revised the System Management topic summary. Changes were recorded by Kim Sanderson. The remaining summaries will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday March 3 at the CASA office, from 9:00 – 3:30. It will be preceded by the proposed teleconference with Neil Cape at 8:00 am.

Action 34.13: Brian Free will email the team immediately with notice of the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.