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The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA)'s newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, providing a quick update for board members and other interested groups. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think! Email any feedback to [info@awc-casa.ca](mailto:info@awc-casa.ca). Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We look forward to hearing from you!



In this edition:

- **Air Currents:** Director Feature: Ann Baran, NGO Rural
- **The Zephyr:** Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter III Project Team, Ambient Air Quality Objectives Project Team, Electricity Framework Review Project Team, Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee, and the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards Symposium Working Group
- **Whiffs and Puffs:** Farewell Christa Jane Edwards, Proposed Updated Air Quality Model Guideline 2020

## Air Currents

### Director Feature: Ann Baran, NGO Rural

Southern Alberta has been Ann's home for her entire life as her parents operated a mixed farm. Following graduation from Picture Butte High School, she attended St. Michael's School of Nursing in Lethbridge and graduated as a Registered Nurse. In November of 1972, Ann married a farmer from the Turin area.

It wasn't until 1995, when a local group asked Ann if she would join them in opposing an expansion to a feedlot operation. Prior to that, she was involved with flooding issues on their dry-land farm and learned about the *Water Act* and other legislation.

Back then, the Government of Alberta coordinated the Klapstein Commission-- a group of government officials who traveled the province to get insight into local issues. The Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE) was making their presentation to the commission on a particular day that Ann was present. Ann later received a call from SAGE asking her to join and represent Southern Alberta's NGOs on a CASA project team.

"Up until then, I had never heard of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) or the consensus decision making process. I was interested in the consensus process as until then, NGOs seemed to have no influence on government policy decisions" said Ann. "To hear of a process where an NGO would actually be heard and have concerns considered was something very new to me" Ann expressed.

Managing Air Emissions from Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta was Ann's first CASA project team. She was full of skepticism at that initial meeting – getting so many people to agree on anything seemed to be a daunting task! However, as Ann learned more about the consensus process, she realized that consensus was the only way her organization's voice would be heard.

"Over the years, I've learned through CASA, the value of NGOs working together with industry and government to find solutions for difficult air quality management issues. CASA provides a safe space where representatives from various sectors can work together on projects and voice their thoughts and opinions openly without being criticized or dismissed" Ann shared.

"If someone was thinking to get involved with CASA, I would encourage them to join a team. It is an opportunity to meet and work with people across the province who represent their sector at CASA's table. It will broaden their understanding of the issues and expand their knowledge of the challenges we face. We often times fail to consider the intricacies of policy development in government but having worked in CASA, one gets a new appreciation of the challenges government officials face when trying to make or change policies" says Ann.

In the next 10 years, Ann would like to see more airshed zones being formed so that the majority of the province will have air monitoring systems established. "COVID-19, has affected how we do things which has, in turn, affected what we consider as our priorities. Regardless of the situation, air quality management should be our main priority" says Ann.



## **The Zephyr**

### **ROVER III Project Team**

The Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter (ROVER) III Project Team launched in May of 2018. Since its launch, the project has experienced several delays that are beyond the control of the team.

The data collection process was scheduled to begin this past spring, but has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the resulting border closure. As a result, the specialized optical emissions contractor, Opus, is unable to cross from the United States of America into Canada to start data collection. The team is investigating potential solutions to -progress this work.

This project has caught the attention of researchers at the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering. The researchers are working on projects related to vehicle emissions in northern and colder environments, and the project team is engaging with these researchers to find synergies with the ROVER III data.

To find out more about the ROVER III project, [visit the team's webpage](#).



## **AAQO Project Team**

The Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAQO) Project Team was approved by the board in December of 2017. The team is tasked with providing advice to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) on the development of AAQOs that are consistent with the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, total reduced sulfur, and hydrogen sulfide.

The team presented a revised project charter at the December 2019 board meeting, requesting an extension to allow the project team time to review proposed changes to AEP's Air Quality Model Guideline (AQMG). The revised AQMG was posted for public comment in June, and the team is using this information to shape their advice for the nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide AAQO recommendations.

The team is expected to present their results at a future board meeting.



## **Electricity Framework Review Project Team**

The Electricity Framework Review's project charter was approved by the board in June of 2018, and the team held its first meeting in July. This is the third five-year review that has been done by CASA, with the goal to ensure the *Emissions Management Framework for Alberta's Electricity Sector* reflects current circumstances in the province.

The short-term tasks, or phase one, were completed in December of 2018. The long-term tasks, or phase two, were originally set to be completed in September of 2019. Following a request to extend the project's timeline, a new deadline was approved at the last board meeting. The team is expected to wrap up at the end of 2020.

For more information, visit the [EFR Project Team Webpage](#).





## **Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee**

The Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee was formed following CASA's 2018 Strategic Planning session. Four strategic priorities were defined, one of which included a governance review of CASA. The committee will review the design of CASA's governance model, including governing strategy, structure, roles, processes, competencies, and culture. The goal is to maximize the value, contributions, and the effectiveness of the board and staff toward achieving CASA's vision and mission.

The committee has held two meetings during the fall of 2019 and presented terms of reference and work plan to the board at the December 2019 meeting. They were working on a current state analysis of CASA's governance but had some challenges meeting face to face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the last board meeting, members expressed the importance of having in-person

discussions for this important work. A decision was made by members to pause the committee's work for the time being.

For more information about this committee, please see this [page](#).



## **CAAQS Symposium Working Group**

At the December 2019 meeting, the board approved a working group to scope a project around CAAQS for a subsequent project team to execute.

During the team's initial meetings, members brainstormed the scope of this project and a project charter was drafted based on these discussions. Since the meeting, the client (AEP) has refined the target audience for this project. The draft charter and some examples have been posted online for the working group to review, compare, and to provide feedback on. During the team's most recent meeting in July, these documents were used to frame a discussion to finalize the

project scope and to start brainstorming objectives and key tasks. The working group is aiming to present a draft project charter at the fall board meeting.

For more information about this work, please contact our [staff](#).

## Whiffs and Puffs



## Farewell Christa Jane Edwards

Christa's family and the AWC and CASA staff, were heart-broken to learn of her sudden passing following some severe health challenges over the past several months. Christa worked with us for only a few months as the team's Board and Office Administrator before taking leave in July 2019. She was fondly known as the "hallway monitor" always screening guests and delivery people at our front door.

Born in Hanna, Christa was a special 1978 Christmas gift for her family; and was named accordingly. After graduating from high school with honours, she attended the University of Alberta studying biological sciences in addition to as many visual arts courses. Christa's primary interests always tilted more towards her artistic side and she truly enjoyed spending time painting and being creative. Nobody was surprised when she chose to spend several years working as a talented graphic designer and communications specialist.

Christa brought a positive energy to many people through her lovely and empathetic soul. While we are all sad to bid farewell, we will cherish the time we spent working with Christa and the memories that were made.

## **Proposed Updated Air Quality Model Guideline 2020**

Alberta Environment and Parks is proposing to update the current 2013 Air Quality Model Guideline. The draft proposed guideline can be reviewed at: [Draft Air Quality Model Guideline](#) (PDF, 1.4 MB).

Comments on the draft proposed updated guideline should be submitted via email to: [David.Lyder@gov.ab.ca](mailto:David.Lyder@gov.ab.ca)

The email header should contain, "Comments – draft proposed updated AQMG". Comments must be submitted this way for consideration. Any comments submitted through other means will not be considered.

Comments must be submitted no later than midnight, October 2, 2020. Any comments submitted after this time will not be considered. For more information, please see [here](#).

#### Upcoming Events and Meetings

- September 17, 2020 - CASA Board Meeting, Edmonton
- December 9, 2020 - CASA Evening Event, Edmonton
- December 10, 2020 - CASA Board Meeting, Edmonton

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