

CASA Board Meeting – Systems Mapping Workshop

Date: Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

Time: 10:30 – 15:30

Place: 6th Floor Center West Building, 10035 – 108 Street, Edmonton

Facilitator: Wayne Crosby

IN ATTENDANCE

Name	Sector
Ahmed Idriss	Utilities
Andre Asselin	Alberta Water Council
Andrew Read	NGO (Urban)
Ann Baron	NGO (Rural)
Bill Calder	NGO (Urban)
Bob Myrick	Provincial Government (Environment)
Brendan Schiewe	Provincial Government (Health)
Brian Ahearn	Petroleum Products
Cheryl Baraniecki	Federal Government
Claude Chamberland	Oil and Gas (Large Producers)
Corinna Mulyk	Provincial Government (Transportation)
David Lawlor	Alternate Energy
David Spink	NGO (Urban)
Elizabeth Bell	Airsheds
Humphrey Banack	Agriculture
Ike Edeogu	Provincial Government (Agriculture)
Karla Reesor	Airsheds
Keith Murray	Forestry
Leigh Allard	NGO (Health)
Martin Van Olst	Federal Government
Peter Noble	Petroleum Products
Rich Smith	Agriculture
Rick Blackwood	Provincial Government (Environment)
Ruth Yanor	NGO (Industrial)
Sharon Willianen	Provincial Government (Environment)
Terry Rowat	Chemical Manufacturers
Wayne Ungstad	NGO (Rural)
Keith Denman	

1. Workshop Introduction

Keith Denman provided the context for the workshop. At the CASA board meeting on December 8th, 2016, the need for clarity on the Air Quality Management System (AQMS) was identified as part of the potential work brought forward by the CASA 2.0 project team. A systems mapping exercise was planned to help identify who does what, what the linkages are, and how CASA might fit. The workshop was scheduled to take place during the March 2017 board meeting.

Workshop participants were asked to introduce themselves and to also give words that came to mind when thinking about the AQMS. The list of words were as follows:

- Air zones
- Complex
- Essential
- Convoluted
- Labyrinthine
- Awareness
- Unknown
- Accountability
- Insufficiently integrated
- Transparent
- Fragmented
- Under-reported
- Public health
- Partnership
- Health implications
- Duplication
- Transition
- Lack of alignment
- Evolving
- Policy
- Challenging
- Over-arching

Many participants focused on the complexities of the system, highlighting the need for increased clarity and understanding of the system.

The workshop purpose, objectives, and scope were reviewed and were:

- **Purpose:** Develop and document a shared understanding of the current state.
- **Objectives:** 1) A depiction of the current state; 2) Identify current roles of key actors in the system; and 3) Identify gaps, challenges, opportunities, and duplications.
- **Scope:** External to the Government of Alberta perspective of the AQMS.

It was noted that although the scope specifies the perspectives are external to the Government of Alberta, they are active participants in the conversation.

The role of the facilitator for the session is to probe for information and get clarity, but not to provide information. The participants' role is to share information, understanding, knowledge and experiences in the AQMS.

Participants were asked to fill out sticky notes with information on who they are, their role(s) in the system, what they provide to the system, and what they need from others in order to perform their roles. The information will be shared during discussions later in the day.

The following organizations did not have representation at the workshop but should be involved in the conversation:

- First Nations & Metis
- Municipalities



- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Energy Efficiency Agency
- Alberta Energy Regulator
- Natural Resources Conservation Board

2. What is the AQMS and why do we have the system?

Participants were asked why there is an AQMS in Alberta, and had the following responses:

- To maintain good air quality. If air quality isn't managed, there are consequences (e.g. the number of bad air quality days experienced in California in the 1960s and 1970s).
- CASA has laid groundwork for the air quality management system and had influence on a national scale.
- Air quality has environmental, human health, and quality of life impacts.
- The assimilative capacity of the environment is finite.
- Dispersal of emissions is not working. Air quality doesn't manage itself; there has to be a mechanism to ensure the desired outcomes occur.
- There are challenges to maintaining good air quality across the province, and it requires an efficient and coordinated system.
- Transparency is needed.
- You need to be able to see where you are, see where you're headed, and have a mechanism for managing the direction of air quality.
- It is not a unique system, and is based on a political system at the provincial, territorial, and national level.
- It provides a balance between air quality, economic development, and population growth in the province without having deteriorating environmental quality.
- It provides public assurance.
- Without standards and performance measures there is no credibility.
- An AQMS is social modeling and provides a reminder that individuals have responsibilities and that individual choices have an effect on air quality.
- A system implies long term commitment.
- It connects the source of air pollutants to their deposition so we can understand how pollutants move and impact the environment and health.
- Voluntary action is insufficient; many industry players would like to improve their environmental performance but can't do so unless there's a regulation requiring it.
- A lack of engagement and transparency can lead to distrust and resistance from stakeholders.

Participants were asked who coordinates (or should coordinate) the AQMS. Answers generally focused on the provincial government, but other suggestions included Environment and Climate Change Canada. The key role for health as well as environment was also highlighted.

Participants were asked to discuss some of the changes and policy trends around air quality management in recent years. Responses included:



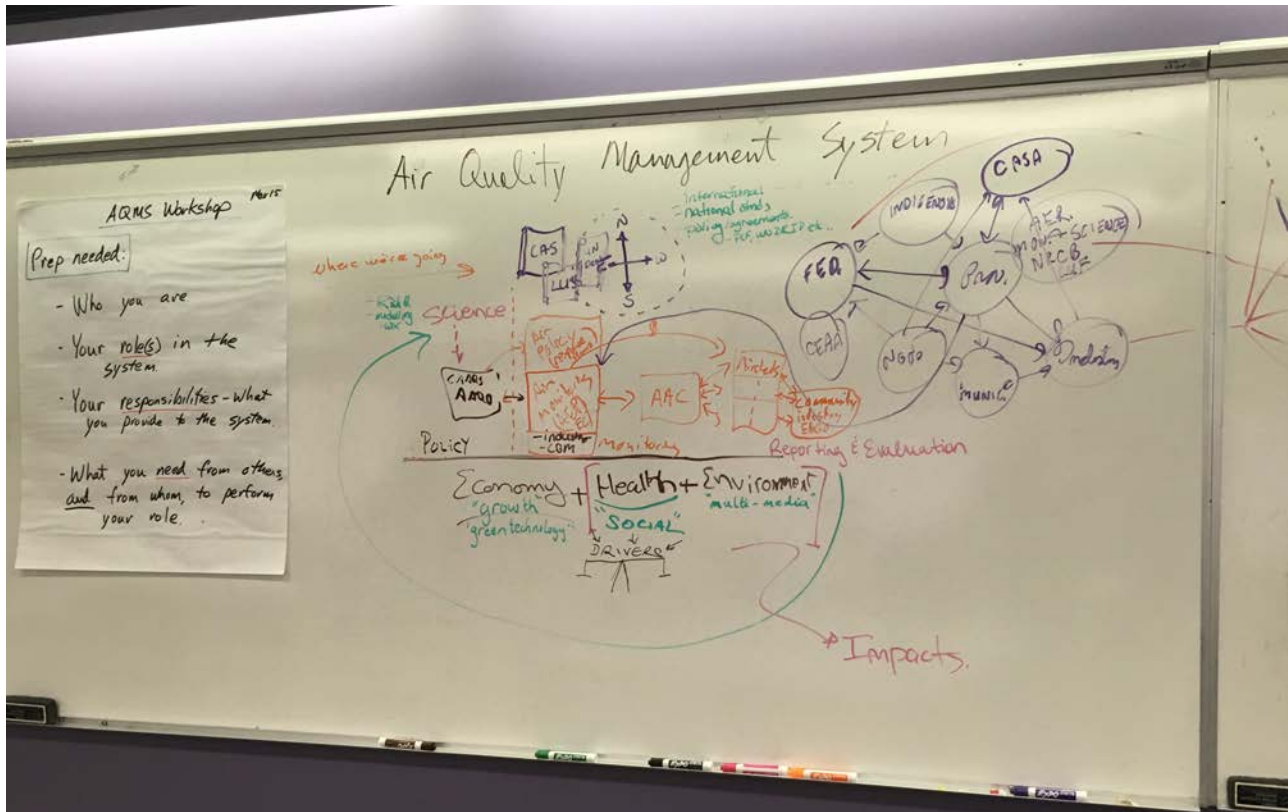
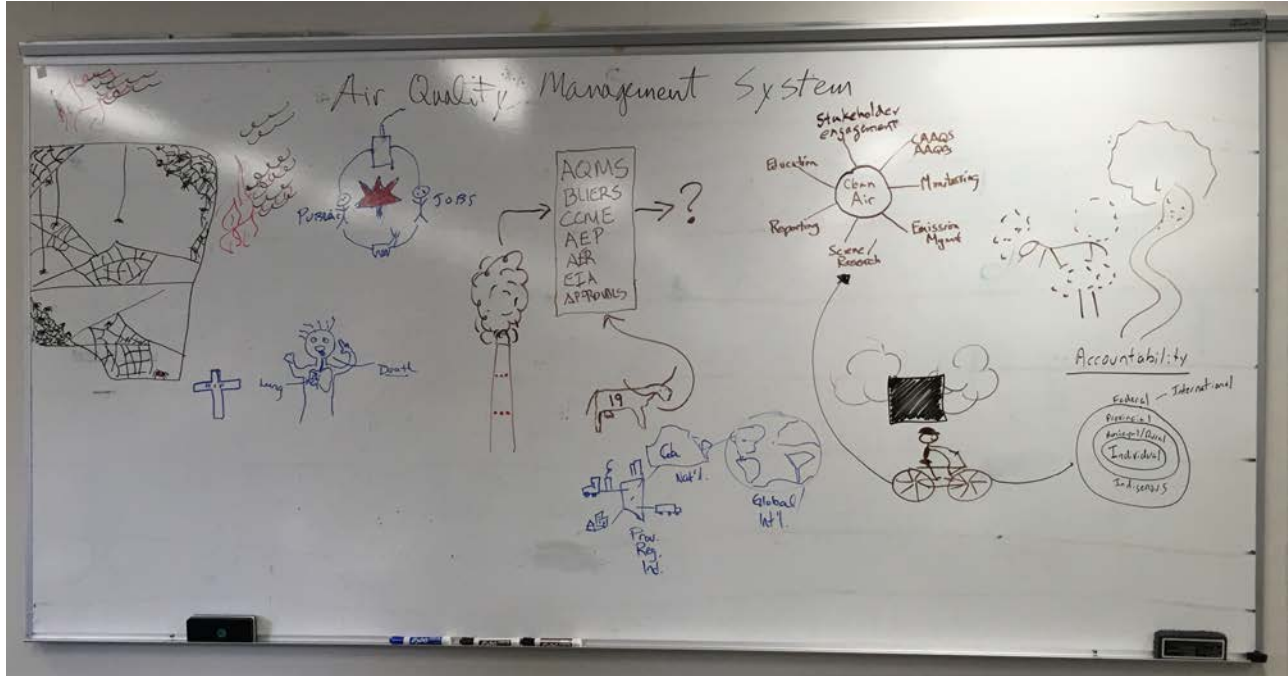
- The AQMS is only five years old, and modern legislation on air quality is barely 20 years old. There are a lot of unknowns, and the AQMS is needed to tackle that.
- Evolution in the AQMS is important.
- Roles and responsibilities are still emerging, such as the role of municipalities in data collection. However, it's unclear who is accountable and who makes decisions on how collected data is given to decision makers.
- Information that for a number of air pollutants there is no "safe level." This necessitates trade-offs and causes different perspectives to collide.
- Messaging on air quality has gone from "the air is great in Alberta" to "the air quality is suffering and needs to be addressed."
- The status quo is no longer acceptable. Requirements are more stringent than they were 10 years ago, and will continue to get more stringent.
- Emergence of new technology, such as hand-held air quality sensors, will play a significant role in the future.
- The expectation for stakeholder engagement and collaboration, and the importance of indigenous perspectives (e.g. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), is becoming more prominent in many levels of government. There has also been more engagement of citizens through alternative platforms, such as social media.
- There have been many regulatory changes in recent years in addition to changes in broader contextual pieces such as the economy, price of oil, in-migration, and out-migration.

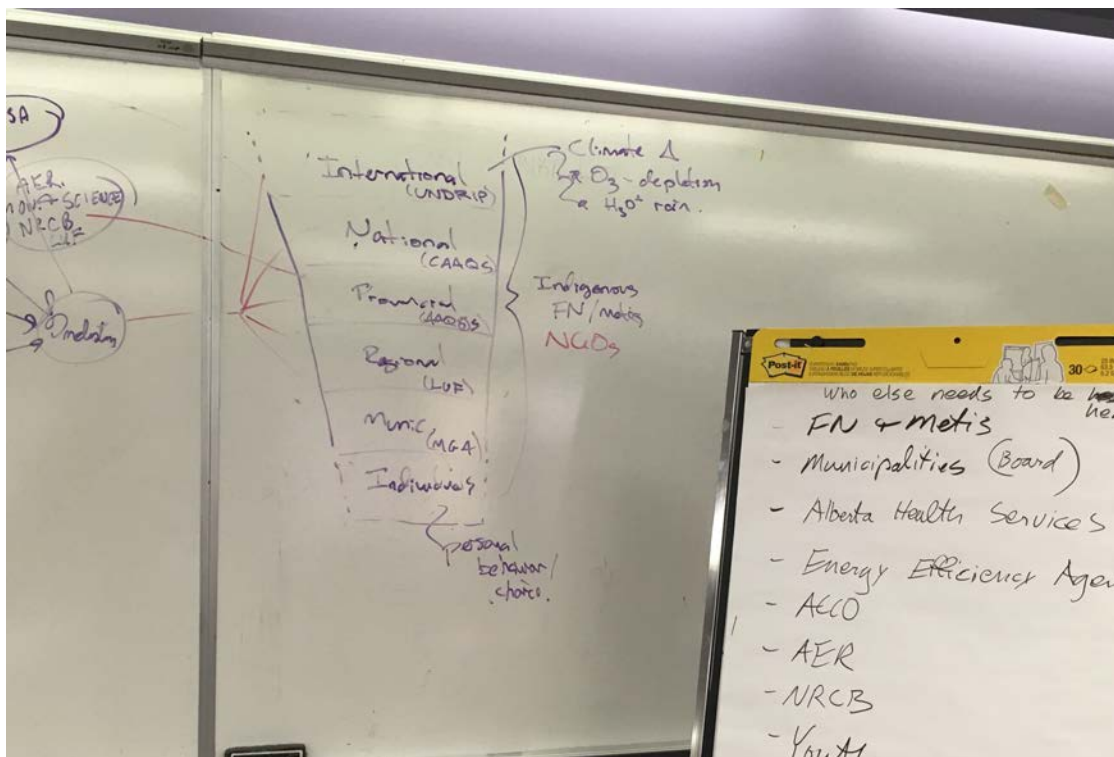
Participants were asked what the AQMS is intended to achieve, and provided the following responses:

- No adverse impacts to air quality and human health.
- Continuous improvement in air quality and health impacts.
- Gain an understanding of air quality and set appropriate targets which have performance measures.
- Improvement in air literacy.

3. What does the AQMS look like?

Participants were broken into groups and asked to draw the AQMS on whiteboards. Pictures of the whiteboards are included below.





Participants were asked to explain their drawings, which the main themes as follows:

- No single diagram can describe the AQMS and show who the parties involved are, how they relate, the geographic areas covered, and the functions of the system.
- Inter-connectedness of the system is lacking.
- The federal and provincial government are key driving players. Each level of government has tools, as to the various inputs into the system (e.g. NGOs, CASA, airsheds, and industry).
- Economy, health, and environment are key drivers, but emissions drive the whole system.
- The focus of the drawings was largely on who is involved, rather than the functions and outcomes.
- Ultimately the AQMS is in place for people and the environment. People should know where the information is, but they shouldn't necessarily need it. The system should bring stability and outcomes.
- Emissions are recorded and reviewed by a series of different agencies. The evaluation of the emissions is vague, as are the number of people reviewing the state of the emissions and the outcomes.

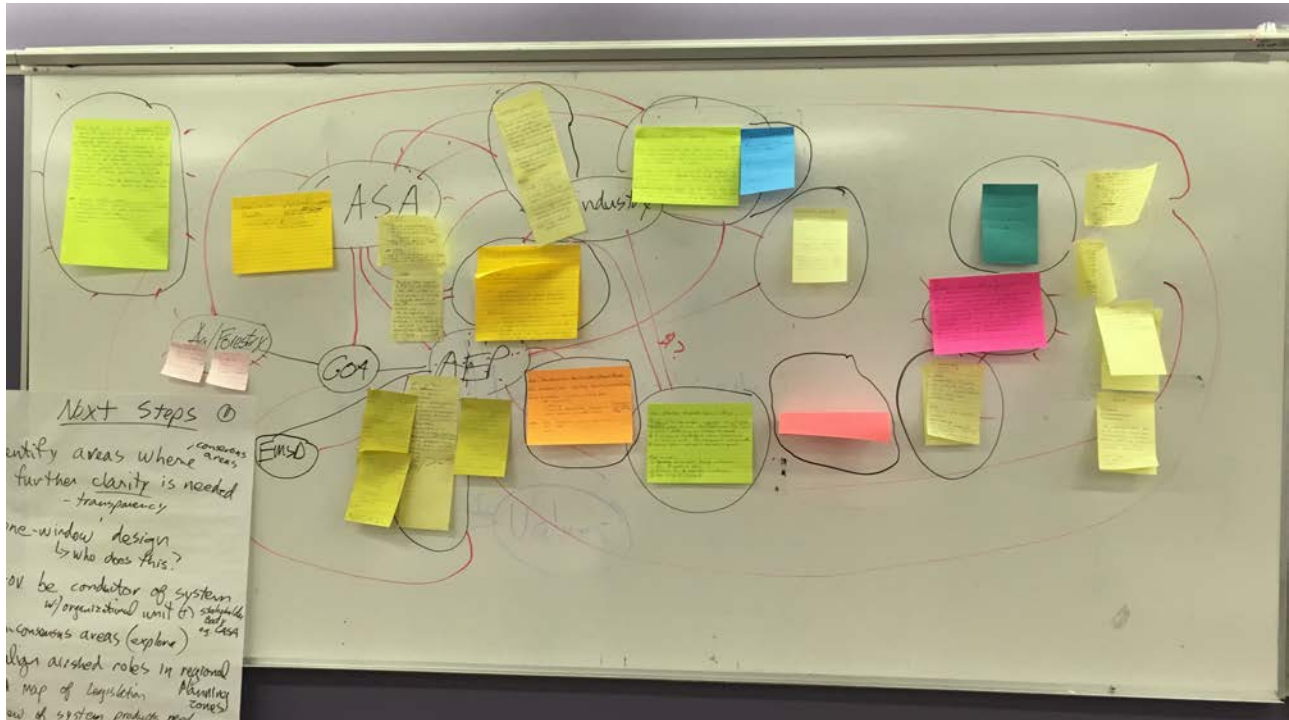
Accountability was discussed, and there was general agreement that an agency should be accountable for the functioning of the system and that it was insufficient to only have each agency responsible for their own mandate. Currently, there isn't a single agency coordinating or leading the system and it results in confusion and lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities. There is collaboration between the federal and provincial government, but the work is occurring in silos and the system is not integrated.

4. Inputs, Outputs, and Linkages in the AQMS



DRAFT MINUTES

The participants provided information about their organizations, their roles in the AQMS, and their requirements. They then placed a sticky note with their information on the whiteboard and connections were drawn. A picture of the whiteboard is below along with a table summarizing the responses.



Organization/Sector	Role/Input	Requirements
<p>Alberta Environmental Network (AEN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An organization for and of ENGOs, the AEN facilitates and supports ENGO capacity and ability to engage and present diverse perspectives. - The AEN is not an advocate of any position. It is collaborate and process driven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its role is to build capacity and enable caucuses and Government of Alberta Ministries and Agencies. - Its responsibilities are to connect ENGOs with agencies, build relationships, and keep communication lines open. - The AEN offers partnering with green initiatives and employment opportunities. - Provide an ENGO perspective and pressure for effective action to maintain and improve air quality. - Provide representatives to participate in collaborate air work (informed participation and reporting back to and getting input from the broader ENGO base). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AEN needs sustainable funding to support both administrative and ENGO activity across Alberta. - Opportunities for meaningful involvement - More information on the provincial government's decision-making

<p>Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework Oversight Advisory Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on further implementation of the framework - Advise on further implementation of PM2.5 response - Meet objectives of North Saskatchewan Regional Plan Air Quality Framework within the Capital Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended actions helpful to our region and others to reduce PM2.5 - Support/leadership for strong action
<p>Notinto Sipi Conservation Authority - ENGO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide an independent audit of the environment in their area - Biased observer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing
<p>Mewassin Community Council - Albertans focused on quality of life issues; predominantly air emissions and land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the complaint drivers - Provide our perspective on activities (typically development) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and front-end engagement - Clarity as to who to connect with regarding what issue - Understanding of processes and what civil engagement looks like and means now
<p>Industry - Industry representative and supervisor of representatives for input - Involved in CAAQS, CROMF, BLIERS, AAQO work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industry representative and supervisor of representatives for input - Involved in CAAQS, CROMF, BLIERS, AAQO work - Provide industry input to multi-stakeholder process - Coordinate industry ideas, proposals, and concerns into policy development process - Liaison to extent possible on interconnections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding of intended policy outcomes/drivers in policy pronouncements, perspective, researchers - Science and other reference information - Identification of ideas, proposals, and concerns of industry colleagues
<p>Pembina Institute - ENGO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data user and interpreter - “Watch Dog” (industry and government) - Solution provider - Relay information and educate - Provide public credibility - “Connect the dots” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unbiased, credible, and honest data interpretation for all audiences - Proactive reporting - Coherent and integrated planning
<p>Airshed Member - ENGO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local coordination - Data collector - Educator - On the ground representative - Responsiveness - Provide unbiased credible data on air quality (source to sink) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement and interest from stakeholders - Sustainable funding to undertake monitoring, education, and engage with the public

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with the public to identify needs and address questions - Good financial management 	
Grain Farmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represent farmers and ensure farmers' opinions and voices are heard - Participate in system and educate the system's participants as to farmers' perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasoning and direction for future positions - Understanding of challenges that farmers will face
<p>Agriculture Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our industry does not have a direct role in implementing the AQMS, but it is an economic driver that can have an impact on air quality and thus we are a stakeholder in the process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand and communicate the obligations and contributions of agriculture producers and the agriculture industry with respect to the AQMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need clarity about our obligations under the AQMS and the agencies with whom we need to interact in meeting these obligations
<p>Alberta Airsheds Council (AAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitates dialogue and cooperation among Airsheds and between Airsheds and their partners and stakeholders (including AEP, AER, and AHS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in establishing new airsheds as needed - Bring regional knowledge to inform discussions on province-wide AQ management and policy matters - Develop and deliver outreach and education programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable funding mechanism for the Airsheds and the AAC - Partners for education and outreach - Role clarity for Airsheds
<p>Peace Airshed Zone Association/Regional Airsheds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air monitoring & knowledge translation (outreach/literacy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide scientifically credible data, air quality monitoring, and air literacy programs - Community stakeholder engagement (industry, municipalities, public, First Nations, Metis, NGO, AEP, AHS, AER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role recognition, clarity, and commitment from AEP - Funding
<p>Chemical Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides chemical solutions to society's problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides economic growth and jobs - Add value to Alberta's resources - Manage and continually improve emissions - Supports monitoring and Airsheds - Outreach and education of the communities we live, work and breathe in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Government transparency o Communication o Policy - Certainty in order to make investment decisions - Consistent applications of science with a focus on outcomes-based policy - Aligned and non-redundant regulations

<p>CAPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractor with CAPP, representing oil and gas large producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide input into proposed regulations or environmental policies as requested - Act as a stakeholder in the system - Comply with regulations, approval requirements - Monitor/report emissions - Strive to reduce emissions in the long term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity as to what the rules are (long term) - Balanced approach to maintain competitiveness - Avoid duplication
<p>CASA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENGO Board member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide consensus-based policy and action recommendations on important air management system issues gaps, etc. - Typically sensitive issues where multi-stakeholder consensus adds large value - Articulate the environment and health interest at the CASA table in a collaborate/consensus-based way - Constructive and contributing participants at the CASA tables to report back to (and bring forward the interests of) the broader environmental network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GoA to see the value of this consensus and direct important work to CASA - Understand the shortcomings of maintaining tight control of issues - Continued financial and administrative support, as well as the support of government and industry in the process - A meaningful forum to articulate and work on our interests
<p>AEP – Air Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set provincial air policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evergreen existing policies - Develop new policies - Respond to emerging/strategic air quality issues and changing circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data to inform process from EMSD, airsheds, industry - Perspectives/input recommendations to inform/guide policy development and setting - Collaboration to collect
<p>AEP – Community Engagement Branch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide AEP and the GoA with support, education, engagement, and partnerships - CASA coordination, both cross-ministry and AEP - Funding and grant management - Roles discussions and analysis, including CASA, AAC, airsheds - Facilitate AEP air literacy strategy - Partnership briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input from stakeholders and communities - Resources/Subject matter experts both division and cross-ministry - Appropriate policy direction that is timely, responsive, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help facilitate AEP and cross-ministry IRMS air partners discussions - Relationship building - Integrate/Facilitate information sharing 	
<p>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural sector, primarily crop and livestock production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and advisory - Coordination - Regulatory and non-regulatory approaches - Responsibilities include research, extension, policy, industry engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication - Understanding of economic, environmental and social implications - Understanding of the diversity of the sector
CASA Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide structured, multi-stakeholder forum to enable good policy recommendations - Support the process - Build trust - Find good issues for CASA to tackle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - Clarity on desired outcomes (primarily from GoA) - Willing, active and constructive participation
<p>Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal government generally (Health Canada, Parks Canada, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National (AQMS airzone, including Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan, BC, Yukon, and NWT). - Regulatory role - Science, monitoring, modeling weather service - Leadership – interational stage, e.g. Paris Agreement, COP meetings - Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment - National policy (CAAQs, PFC, Paris) - Indigenous issues, reporting to Canadians (shared with FPT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional feedback into national system (collaboration, communication) - How can Government of Canada use CASA/provincial systems to deliver its objectives and understand others objectives? - How can we use this to feed decisions, engagement, etc.
Alberta Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports the development of Air Quality guidelines, standards, and objectives (AAAQOAC) - Address community concerns related to air quality through engagements, studies, etc. - Funding provision of health care to people impacted by poor air quality - Tracks rates of disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QA/QC'd, accurate data - Understanding of data limitations - Research - Engagement/Awareness - Coordination and cooperation - Budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide advice to decision makers and the public - Regulatory role in the review of human health and risk assessments conducted as part of EIAs - Assessment and advice provision during air quality emergencies - Participation in multi-stakeholder air quality discussions - Producing evidence-based reports on topics including air quality 	
<p>Alberta Environment and Parks - Various divisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic direction - Planning (incl. air management frameworks) - Implementation - Monitoring, evaluation, reporting - Setting regulations - Participation on CASA, airsheds 	-

A discussion followed the exercise. ENGO representatives felt the ENGOs were on the periphery of the system and they don't have a roadmap to get to where they need to go. There was also a common need for clarity of functions, mechanisms, and players and identification of a lead agency; potentially an advisory stakeholder body. Individual organizations/agencies were clear on their own role, but not clear on the roles of others or the various linkages between groups.

5. Next Steps

The information from the workshop would be compiled in a summary report and distributed to participants. A small group of CASA board members, with representation from each sector, can then review the document and determine what makes sense in terms of CASA's direction. The group can then report back to the larger CASA Board at the June meeting.

Some participants had hoped the workshop would bring more clarity on the current system, possibly in the form of a road map of the AQMS. Development of such a product may be the outcome of activities following the workshop, but the type of information received during the workshop wasn't sufficient to develop a map.

6. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 15:30.

