

Final Minutes



Clean Air Strategy Project Team Meeting 16

November 14, 2008

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

CASA Offices, Edmonton

In attendance:

Name	Organization
Jennifer Allan	CASA
Don Bradshaw	Alberta Energy
Lawrence Cheng	Alberta Environment
Kerra Chomlak	CASA
Peter Dzikowski	Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Gerry Ertel	Shell Canada, CPPI
Tony Hudson	The Lung Association
Steve Kennett	Pembina Institute
Myles Kitagawa	Prairie Acid Rain Coalition
David Lawlor	Enmax (PPA Buyers)
Alison Lewis	Graymont Western Canada (by phone)
Kim McLeod	CASA
Al Mok	Suncor, CAPP
Bettina Mueller	Alberta Environment
Allan Mumby	Alberta Airsheds Council
Kim Sanderson	CASA
Anita Sartori	CNRL, CAPP
Merry Turtiak	Alberta Health and Wellness

With regrets:

Name	Organization
Len Bracko	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Michael Brown	ERCB
Christine Byrne	Imperial Oil, CAPP
Long Fu	Alberta Environment
Debra Gardiner	Enmax
Tim Goos	Environment Canada
James Guthrie	TransAlta
Carolyn Kolebaba	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Ken Omotani	TransAlta
Jason Schultz	TransCanada
Nashina Shariff	Toxics Watch Society
Srikanth Venugopal	TransCanada
Mike Zemanek	Alberta Health and Wellness

Action items:

Task	Who	When
12.1: Team members who identify documents of value to the	Team members	Ongoing

Straw Dog Subgroup will prepare a short synopsis, including how it relates to the CAS, and forward the summary and the document to Jennifer.		
16.1: Jennifer will distribute Bettina's presentation to the team.	Jennifer	Nov. 24
16.2: Team members will send any further comments or wording suggestions on the draft strategic directions to Jennifer for distribution to the SDSG.	Team members, Jennifer	Nov. 24
16.3: Jennifer will post breakout group feedback from meeting 16 and any additional comments on the draft text to the Sharepoint site.	Jennifer	Nov. 25
16.4: Team members will forward suggestions for offsite locations for the January retreat to Jennifer.	Team members	Dec. 1

Bettina Mueller convened the meeting at 10:10 am. Those present introduced themselves.

1. Administrative Items

a) Approval of agenda and meeting objectives

Bettina reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. One item was added to review the process for providing input to the rolling draft over the coming months. The revised agenda was approved as circulated. The final report on the public consultations will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

b) Approve minutes from meeting 15

The minutes from meeting 15 were approved by consensus.

c) Action items follow up

Task	Status
12.1: Team members who identify documents of value to the Straw Dog Subgroup will prepare a short synopsis, including how it relates to the CAS, and forward the summary and the document to Jennifer.	Ongoing
12.7: AENV will do a presentation to a future meeting on the air quality management system.	On today's agenda
14.3: The SDSG will work with Kim and Jennifer to revise part one, Knowledge and Information, and Pollution Prevention and Control.	Done. Part one and Regional Planning will come to the team at the next meeting.
15.1: Gerry will re-send the LUF presentation to Jennifer for distribution to the team.	Carry forward to Nov 22
15.2: Jennifer will request from Sharon Hawrelak more information about the specific costs related to the request for an additional \$50,000 for public consultation. The co-chairs will consider this detailed information and apprise the team. A decision on allocating the additional funds will be made by email before the next meeting.	Co-chairs discussed this item. There is enough money for phase three of the consultations. The Public Consultation Subgroup (PCSG) will look at the scope and budget for phase 3 and come back to the team. The PCSG will aim to complete this work by the end of

Task	Status
	November.
15.3: Jennifer and Bettina will revise the memo to GoA executive councils for review by the co-chairs, and Jennifer will send the final version to the team for information.	Co-chairs have reviewed. Jennifer will send to the team today.
15.4: Jennifer will circulate the proposed list of departments to receive the memo to the team before the memo goes out.	Jennifer will send this list with the memo in item 15.3.
15.5: The BVP subgroup and Kim will meet to review the team's input and consider how best to address these points in the draft CAS.	Meeting is scheduled for Nov 27.
15.6: Jennifer will email a reminder to team members to caucus and/or send any suggestions to the SDSG well ahead of their next meeting, likely November 6.	Done. Jennifer will send another reminder prior to the SDSG's next meeting.
15.7: Jennifer will poll for two consecutive days for a January meeting.	Done. This will be Jan.12 and 13 in Edmonton.

d) Budget Update

This item will be deferred to the December meeting when there is a full report from the Public Consultation Subgroup. The budget is on track.

e) CASA Update

- The EFR team has done an emissions forecast for the electricity sector; the forecast will soon be available on the CASA website.
- The Flaring and Venting team is hiring a consultant to look at potential costs to eliminate flaring and venting entirely in Alberta.
- Team members should contact Jennifer if they are having problems getting onto the Sharepoint website. Those who have not yet activated their access should do as soon as possible.
- Regarding PM and Ozone plans, the three areas that must do ozone management plans expect to complete their work by the end of 2008 and submit their plans to AENV. PAMZ is leading work in the Red Deer area, CRAZ in Calgary, and in the Edmonton CMA, three zones are involved: ACAA, FAP, and WCAS. NOx emissions in particular are being targeted. Zones, in consultation with stakeholders, will make recommendations.

2. Alberta's Air Quality Management System

Bettina Mueller reviewed the air quality management system in Alberta. She noted that Martha Kostuch had done a presentation on the air quality management system in 2007, and this presentation is accessible on the Sharepoint site. Bettina's presentation focused on governance aspects of air quality management. She described the following strategies for clean air:

1. Emissions avoidance
2. Emissions standards
3. Emissions pricing

4. Cost-benefit
5. Air resource management (stipulates the amount, location and timing of emissions so that deterioration of ambient air quality is minimized)
6. Property rights
7. Combinations of the above six

Public participation and the concept of the public interest are key elements, and discussions involve potential tradeoffs of human and environmental health and the desire for survival. The concept of acceptable risk then comes into play. Team members engaged in a short discussion about what is “the economy,” noting the following points:

- BATEA is the price industry is willing to pay and is not the same as true economic achievability.
- What is the basis for wealth creation? It can be resources, knowledge, or a combination of things, and jurisdictions compete in generating wealth. Consumption is a driving factor, and anything that is seen as reducing consumption would harm the economy.
- The economy is the decision-making system for allocating resources. Wants are infinite but resources are finite so we need a way to make those allocations.
- Air quality decisions are influenced by what we want, how we allocate resources, and how we decide. There are different models for making these decisions and describing how the economy should work (e.g., Chicago School of Economics, Keynesian economics, E.F. Schumacher).

Bettina also noted the parties that influence air quality in Alberta, among them Alberta Environment, other GOA departments and agencies (e.g., Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation, Agriculture, ERCB), Environment Canada, municipal governments, CASA, CEMA, CCME, and non-government organizations.

Team members provided the following comments:

- There is the question of whether NGOs represent the public. They have a wide variety of interests and areas of focus, but they can also influence elected officials by getting the public involved in issues.
- Energy efficiency is relevant to this discussion. Transport Canada is looking at updating fuel efficiency standards.
- Education also influences air quality decisions; how do we get the right programs into the school system?
- A bigger issue is a system of national accounts, in which we consider overall capital, including environmental and human capital. Transportation infrastructure is a capital asset that supports other things, and these relationships also need to be kept in mind.
- Different groups are looking at different things, and maybe we need to do a better job of looking at cross interests; e.g., does AENV consider impact of its decisions on the economy? Does high quality of life mean a large disposable income, for

example? What about the social aspects? The three pillars of sustainability all need to be part of the equation.

- We need to consider how these concepts generally affect consumers at the point of purchase and how Albertans are acting. Decision making is the point at which values are clarified.
- Governance design must enable integration of interests.
- Two other tenets should also be included in the discussion:
 - We should recognize the corrupting role that finance plays in the economy.
 - You cannot permanently pit an absurd human convention, such as the spontaneous increment of debt (compound interest) against the natural law of the spontaneous decrement of wealth (entropy). *Source: Frederick Soddy, 1926 Nobel Laureate chemist and underground economist*

Action 16.1: Jennifer will distribute Bettina's presentation to the team.

3. Breakout Group Reports

The team split into three breakout groups to review and discuss the three strategic directions of Knowledge and Information, Pollution Prevention and Control, and Governance. The intent was to identify areas in the strategic directions that members can support and area where changes are needed. The Straw Dog Subgroup will review this input and discuss at its next meeting. The breakout group reports are appended to these minutes.

4. Next Steps

a) Greed and Fear discussion

Jennifer has set up an area of the Sharepoint site for the team to discuss the topic of "Greed and Fear. "If team members want to have an item about this on the next agenda, they should advise Jennifer.

b) Further comments on draft strategic directions

Team members noted that not all the advice from the breakout groups was consistent and they are aware that the SDSG will need to either make a decision or write the next draft with options embedded in a different font. If they make a decision, it would help the team if they could briefly explain their rationale.

The team agreed that all comments going to the SDSG as a result of this meeting and any additional comments would be posted on the Sharepoint site for all members to see.

Action 16.2: Team members will send any further comments or wording suggestions on the draft strategic directions to Jennifer for distribution to the SDSG.

Action 16.3: Jennifer will post breakout group feedback from today's meeting and any additional comments on the draft text to the Sharepoint site.

c) Next Meetings

- The next meeting will be December 10 in Edmonton.
- Starting in February 2009, meetings will continue to be the second Tuesday of each month, pending potential adjustments for holiday Mondays.
- The team agreed that the January 12-13 retreat should be held offsite.

Action 16.4: Team members will forward suggestions for offsite locations for the January retreat to Jennifer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Break-Out Group Reports

Governance

Report 1

- Clarify if this is aimed at GoA or others
- Clarify scale of Goal 3 – is it regional? Provincial?
- Super department model is overwhelming
- How to make tradeoff decisions?
- Need coordination at lower levels to ensure outcomes
- Assessment of current air quality management system and how government relates to this
- Need who and how, how outcomes will fit with current structures
- Are we talking about changing the way government works? What governance model do we think will be acceptable?
- Will it be transformational and revolutionary?
- Will it be acceptable to other governments and other departments?
- How does the structure demonstrate that air quality is considered in governance mechanisms? How can we design accountability to do this?
- How to ensure accountability for adhering to the CAS?

Report 2

- Re goal 2 – need to emphasize issue of silos
- Re appeal mechanism, maybe we need an environmental ombudsman?
 - Appeal body is a showstopper for AHW, but further clarity is needed first to understand the concept the SDSG is trying to get at.
 - Group agreed we need something like this so Albertans can be heard.
- Re goal 2: concerns that the list should be seen as examples and not an exhaustive list. IAQ doesn't fit here.
 - IAQ is on people's minds so we can't ignore it. Suggest it be addressed in another forum. We recognize but don't deal with it here.
- Overall want to see more clarity. Maybe an org chart. Make it clear what kind of governance system we are talking about. There is fear of creating parallel structures.
- Re the appeal mechanism: concern about how it would be managed and concerns it could hold up development and mitigation of health concerns; don't want to see legal action result, but want ability to hold system to action.

Report 3

- What does leadership mean? It could mean a) that Alberta is a leader among leaders, or b) leadership within Alberta itself. How does leadership manifest itself in the air world? Need to clearly articulate and define what the public interest is and the action required.
- CAS governance structure should align with others (WFL, LUF). Where are the synergies? They are all trying to articulate aspects of the public interest.
- Governance structure needs to evaluate actions taken, consider water and land links and tradeoffs.
- Encourage appropriate cross departmental awareness to consider impacts.
- Concern about unintended consequences. Should propose soft things that talk about interdepartmental communication, use of cross-department mechanisms. What about the

idea of a one department window for air, then fan out. It would also be good to have a road map to see how to navigate.

- The challenge is how to be a leader and still get re-elected. Need good policy advice to people who make policy choices. If provide good policy options, we hope we will get the right outcome.
- Are we duplicating LUF?
- Goal 2 preamble should reflect options: linkages, communications across silos
 - Driver – identify a lead agency, one single point of contact
- Goal 3 - Need clarity in mandate, scope, who accountable to, etc.

Knowledge and Information

Report 1

- Introduction might be too long
- Need to understand who our audience is. 1991 CAS was an internal document for government. We want all Albertans to refer to this version and we want it to have a long life.
- Goal 1b – need clear separation between emissions inventories and modeling which is different from ambient measurement. Separate these to two goals.
- Re reporting of information out: government reports are not all that well received as government is mistrusted by many members of the public. Having a third party report on the status of Alberta's air would be better. But which entity would do this on an annual basis? Need more details on this goal.
- Funding for all knowledge gathering, information dissemination, etc. needs to be thought out. Who will fund it and how do we ensure funding is sustainable?
- Gap: talks about motivating behavioural change but don't say how to do it.
- Theme: ensure that the CAS is building a system that can be used.
- Education is not enough; what is the system to take the information and do something with it.
- How to translate knowledge and information into action?

Report 2

- Remove reference to higher energy prices. The CAS should stand irrespective of energy prices.
- Goal re periodic evaluation of CAS: Separate the evaluation of CAS and evaluation of the air quality system in considering how we are doing with implementation.
- Re independent report: what information would it contain? Why do we need a third party? The GOA or AENV specifically could do this.
- Group had no fundamental issues with this section, but does have additional suggestions that can be provided later.

Report 3

- Key is to turn data into information and get the most out of knowledge and information. Three priorities:
 1. Information that leads to meaningful action for individuals
 - Goal 2: lot of commonality, four areas where thought could be linked, find way to make information more valuable

- Need more clarity in articulating who collects, what is the venue to distribute information and who are the audiences.
2. Highlight education to make information more valuable
- Need a goal on knowledge and information as it pertains to education
3. Research
- Should it be on every section, or should it be consolidated to one section?
 - Talk about cross cutting research, but also potential for research to be done in the private sector and how to incent this research.

Additional comments:

- Re timely information: If we do use an index to provide information, we don't need a daily message, since it would be inherent in the index. We don't want to overload people. There is timely information for sensitive individuals and for the general population and these are not necessarily the same. We don't need to be as specific as "daily."
- Depending on the audience, "timely" could be more often than daily or less often than daily.
- Need clarification about the third party reporting idea. Is there value in this or not? Public has said they don't trust government. Is the option is to make government more credible?
- When companies want to be more credible, they create assurance done by an independent third party.

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)

Report 1

1. GOA needs to be consistent in its design and implementation of PPC policies
2. Re goal 1: "Alberta is a leader..." This should be moved to the Knowledge and Information section. Research is cross cutting.
3. Add something on how to deal with non-controlled or area sources of emissions.

One showstopper: Action 2b, Identify and eliminate practices and policies that contribute to pollution. This is too rigid. We can try to prevent emissions, but it's not always possible.

Report 2

- Okay with the overall structure and content
- *One showstopper, related to goal 3:* There are many policy objectives for many of these areas and air issues are only one. How do we convey the idea that air needs to be considered but not overreach. How do these tradeoffs occur?
- Pollution prevention and pollution control may not be distinguishable. May be just semantics and any differences don't matter. The origin was pollution prevention because people felt it was not happening.
- Goal 1: Add 'adopting' technologies (Alberta is a leader in researching, developing and adopting...)
- Goal 2, identification of practices: The examples are too precise. Need to give examples to illustrate the point without pointing fingers.

- Goal 2: One section refers to continuous modification of standards; industry can't have constantly changing standards. Need some stability and certainty.
- Text above Goal 1: Decouple air pollution from production; we want production with less air pollution.

Report 3

- Initial reaction is that this is going in the right direction.
- Goal 1: Don't duplicate what others are doing, adopt their work where it fits
 - In choosing where we want to be leaders, be aware of what our capacity is. Alberta doesn't have the brainpower to lead in everything. Also consider the size of our markets in certain areas.
 - Research itself is not extensive enough; be attentive to pre-commercialization and commercialization of technology advancements we are pursuing.
- Actions 2a and 2b: Need to reword these to be more positive statements and to be more timeless. 2a sounds like a one-time action. Should indicate that we are calling for regular evaluation of our policies, barriers, etc. Also ensure that when we assess and remove barriers, we aren't creating unintended effects.
- Action 3c: Concern that the level of detail and prescriptive tone will be provocative. This should be dropped. The outcome could occur with implementation of other actions under this goal.
- Action 3d, re implementing and rewarding compact urban design: This action assumes there is knowledge on what is good urban design and planning practices. We need to ensure that we tap into this knowledge and be clearer that this potential action is to deal with the need to implement better planning. The Regional Planning section may look at this action, and we need to consider how to cross link actions.