Final Minutes

Clean Air Strategy Meeting #7

Date: March 3, 2008
Time: 10.00 – 3.30
Place: CASA

In attendance:

Name	Stakeholder group
Len Bracko	AUMA
Michael Brown	ERCB
Kerra Chomlak	CASA
Debra Code	ENMAX
Peter Dzikowski	Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Tim Goos	Environment Canada
Tony Hudson	Alberta Lung Association
Robyn Jacobsen	CASA
Steve Kennett	Pembina Institute
Myles Kitagawa	Toxics Watch Society (alternate for Martha Kostuch)
Alex Mackenzie	Alberta Health and Wellness
Al Mok	Suncor / CAPP
Bettina Mueller	Alberta Environment
Ken Omotani	TransAlta
Anita Sartori	CNRL / CAPP
Barb Shackel-Hardman	Alberta Agriculture and Food
Nashina Shariff	Toxics Watch Society
Jennifer Allan	CASA

With regrets:

Name	Stakeholder group
Christine Bryne	Imperial Oil / CAPP
Gerry Ertel	Shell / CPPI
Long Fu	Alberta Environment
Carolyn Kolebaba	AAMD&C
Martha Kostuch	Prairie Acid Rain Coalition
Srikanth Venugopal	TransCanada
Mike Zemanek	Alberta Health and Wellness

Consultants:

Name	Organization
Arden Brummel	S2S
Greg MacGillivray	S2S

Steve Kennett chaired the meeting, which convened at 10.05 a.m. Quorum was achieved.
Steve welcomed the team and S2S consulting. The workshop made excellent progress and the goal of the next couple meetings is to continue getting ideas on the table and maintaining the momentum.

Hopefully we can get the big ideas down so we have something to work with. There will be opportunity to add, refine and reassess elements of the strategy.

Action Items:

Action items	Who	Due
7.1: Jennifer will type up the parking lot and distribute to the team	Jennifer	Distribute with minutes
7.2: Robyn Jacobsen will contact SRD and ask for information regarding forest fire management practices.	Robyn Jacobsen	ASAP

1) Administration

a. Approval of the agenda: Agenda approved by consensus
    - Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting: Minutes of the January and February meetings will be approved via email.

b. Report writer:
    - The team decided to hire Kim Sanderson. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table that is valuable for the team's work. In the long run, it will save time having her in sooner rather than only to write the final report.
    - **The team agreed** to hire Kim and to have her attend as many meetings as possible.

c. CASA Update:
    - The team updated each other on the work of various CASA teams. The purpose of the CASA Update is to provide context for the Clean Air Strategy and an overview of what's happening at CASA.
    - A representative from the Vehicle Emissions team (VET) asked if the Clean Air Strategy team felt that the VET should wait for direction from the Clean Air Strategy before resuming its work, or if VET should start working and provide input to the Clean Air Strategy team. The team thought the two processes could work in parallel, with updates between the teams.

2) Priority Areas

a. Review from workshop

Some team members identified areas, in particular indoor air quality, that could be priority areas, but are not currently captured. A parking lot was started. It was expanded through the day to include principles brainstormed through the day.

The team touched on the vision, mission and principles at the Rafter 6 workshop and will revisit these important pieces at a future meeting. The team also discussed we will face in the future, including issues (e.g. the priority areas) and decision making (e.g. government-wide strategy).

Action Item 7.1: Jennifer will type up the parking lot and distribute to the team

3) Priority Areas – define and develop goals in each area

The team decided to cover urban air quality, industrial point sources and agriculture /forestry today because team members with expertise in those areas were present today, but not Friday.

The team discussed cumulative effects, recognizing it is on the agenda for Friday's meetings. Cumulative effects could be the basic philosophy of the Clean Air Strategy, but it could also be a net benefit if the strategy works (i.e. emissions are reduced from multiple sources). The team also noted that different members used the term differently and a discussion was needed to determine how the team would define cumulative effects.

Regarding the Clean Air Strategy, some felt the direction was becoming too detailed. They felt strategy should not include implementation or management options, but should focus on key strategic directions. Some of the brainstormed ideas were implementation options. The strategy should focus on goals. For example, the strategy could start a shift toward regional caps, but leave the details of how to meet those limits up to the industries and government – a variety of technological and decision making processes could be used.

Industrial Point Sources

The team discussed the scope of this priority area. One of the value-added elements of this Clean Air Strategy is a shift away from point source management toward regional caps.

Two issues emerged from the discussion: areas of concentration and point sources outside these areas. Some of the past challenges and future opportunities are in areas where there is a concentration of industrial activity, such as the oilsands and upgrader areas. There is also industrial activity outside these areas. A sectoral approach to managing these emissions (such as the Electricity Framework) could be used in these areas. Another approach could be a technology standard that considers BATEA and ambient air quality in the area.

Discussion around the issue of regional caps included the idea that a cap provides an incentive to improve, which maximizing economic capacity under the cap. People are willing to accept that some pollution occurs for economic development, but a cap is one way to incent innovative approaches that balance environmental and economic outcomes. In order for that innovation to occur, there should be some flexibility in how the cap can be met, rather than this team prescribing how industry can meet caps.

It was also noted that regional caps and sectoral or technological improvements are end-of pipe. Many felt the Clean Air Strategy should address pollution prevention as a goal.

Industrial point sources were defined as sources where AENV and ERCB have regulatory jurisdiction

GOALS:

- Regional Caps
- Sectoral or technological standards
- Industrial ecology and design

MATRIX:

Information:

- Emissions information from all sources in an area
- Current air quality
- Forecasts

- Getting right information to the right people
    - Decision makers and the public
- State of the art technologies that are available
- Costs and benefits of the options (technological, policy mechanisms)
- Desired air quality end points

Technologies:
- Renewable energy technology
- Distributed power generation
- Incent innovation for future technologies
- Closed-loop industrial design
- Promoting technological development

Behaviour:
- Incent industry to operate beyond compliance standards
    - Include financial and recognition as incentives
- Reduce consumption – demand-side management
    - Industrial and consumer

Decision-making processes:
- Market-based incentives
- Regulatory management systems
- Emissions trading systems
- Long-term planning to increase certainty around environment and economic outcomes
    - Regarding design standards for new facilities

Urban Air Quality
The team noted that this priority area, more than the others, involves the municipal level of government. The Clean Air Strategy should lay out a way to include municipal governments in air quality decision making.

Challenges facing urban air quality include urban sprawl and increasing number of transportation corridors between cities. Issues include urban design, land and water use. Indoor air quality is a concern, some cities are trying to use LEED standards. There are also a lot of non-point (area) sources in urban areas.

The team discussed the link between people's behaviour and the built urban environment. For example, the increasing sprawl means people are more likely to need vehicles and drive more often. The design of cities influence behaviour and choice – and vice versa. There is an added challenge how we could deal with the existing built environment.

There is still the issue of transportation emissions of moving goods between cities. This has an impact on the urban air quality priority area as trucks and trains enter the city, sometimes during peak traffic hours.

The strategy should also consider some of unintended consequences of recommendations. Economic and social elements are intertwined in some of these goals. We should keep an eye on our overall

goals and vision. The strategy should look for opportunities to use multiple tools to balance the multiple problems.

GOALS:
- Urban design, including transit
- Behaviour
- Area sources – vehicles, residences, energy consumption, etc

MATRIX:
Information:
- Get the right information to the right people
    - Include municipal governments
    - Public information to help inform choices, behaviour
- Emissions inventory (currently there are estimates)

Technology:
- Video conferencing – encourage working at home
- Net zero homes (CMHC estimates by 2030 homes will be net zero, Alberta could be a leader)
- Efficient mass transit
- Zero emission mass transit

Behaviour:
- Taxes, incentives, rules, regulation
- Education

Decision-making processes:
- Elegant solutions – seeking solutions to multiple problems (across multiple dimensions)
- Municipalities have more influence over developers
- Framework for municipal development and design
- Process for considering air quality in development and design decision making
- Cumulative effects approach – management across projects (roads, development)
- Include all three levels of government

Agricultural sources and forestry
The team first discussed agricultural sources, then agreed to information they would need regarding forestry.

It was clarified that the main consideration for this priority area was the industrial sector of agriculture, not all farming.
The issues raised centered around information gaps on the relative contribution of agriculture to air quality. There is information that agricultural sources are responsible for the majority of ammonia emissions. There is also concern around nitrogen emissions contribute to acidification. There are also unknowns how some agricultural emissions interact in the air. It was noted that this could be an opportunity to be proactive.

The agricultural industry is also in decline and faces different economic realities and pressures than other industries. Energy is becoming more important in agricultural areas, which would also benefit air quality.

The CFO team has recommendations to conduct monitoring and to develop an emissions inventory and source apportionment which will address the information gap. The problem is that we still don't know what current levels are, if they are a concern and how to 'bend the curve.'

GOALS:

MATRIX:
Information:

- Monitoring, source apportionment (already scheduled for next 2-3 years)
- Emissions, their fate and effects
- Certainty for management – balancing economic and environmental outcomes

Technology:

- Energy technology

Behaviour

- Stewardship concept
- Incentives

Decision-making processes

- Currently 2 siting mechanisms:
    - Operations are sited first, then the level of activity is determined
    - Minimum Separation Distance between operation and neighbours
        - Emissions are managed by dispersion
- Include the impact of facility on neighbours and air quality before siting?

Forestry:
The issues surrounding forestry include some industrial point sources, such as pulp and paper and NOx emissions from bio mass. Forest fires are a concern particularly for PM10.
The team identified information needed to address this priority area:

- Current burning and forest management practices
    - Are there management practices that could prevent large scale fires?

The team brainstormed some ideas:

- Information needs to be communicated. On poor air quality days, is there prescribed burning? Communication between groups and departments would be useful.

Action item 7.2: Robyn Jacobsen will contact SRD and ask for information regarding forest fire management practices.

4) Next meeting

The team reminded each other to remain future-looking. We want to anticipate issues, impacts and opportunities for the future when developing these priority areas. What will be the key thrusts of the 2009 Strategy?

5) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3.25 p.m.