

## Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 29 held on June 15th, 2006 in Kelowna

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Laura Maclean	Environment Canada
Allen James	BC Poultry Association (BCAC)
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC (BCAC)
Lynne Wilson	Farm.com Council
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Steve Thomson	BC Agriculture Council
Jennifer Dyson	BC Agriculture Council
Henry Wiens	BC Horticultural Association (BCAC)
Lorne Hunter	BC Milk Producers
Linda Allison	BC Cattleman's Association (BCAC)
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Denise MacDonald	BC Fruit Growers Association
Irmi Critcher	BC Grain Producers Association
Cornelius Hertgers	BC Milk Producers Association
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council
Bert Miles	IAF
Janet Demarcke	UBCM
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Jim Mattison	Ministry of Environment
Jack Bryden	Ministry of Environment
Bob Williams	Ministry of Environment
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Terry Dash	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
Philip Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Carl Withler	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Kevin Murphy	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Harvey Sasaki	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Wray McDonnell	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The meeting was chaired by – Hans Buchler - BCAC

Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik - MAL

## **Minutes**

Minutes of meeting 28 held on March 9th, 2006 in Victoria – adopted with corrections suggested by committee. Final minutes will be posted on MAL website.

## **Partnership Committee Administrative Items**

Newsletter – stories have been submitted but no further work on the newsletter has been done. Terry Dash will ensure that the first newsletter is developed this summer. Resources for future newsletters will need to be discussed at the November PC meeting.

Posting to web – The PC approved a proposal to link the PC web material to waterbucket.ca. Waterbucket is the web portal for water information in the province of British Columbia. This will be done over the summer and a presentation on Waterbucket will be given at the next PC meeting.

## **Slaughterhouse and Poultry Processing Criteria**

Jack Bryden gave a presentation on the background on slaughterhouse and processing issues. The goal of this initiative are to provide guidance on: large scale on site landfill design; land application of liquids; on site wastewater management; on site incineration; and mobile abattoirs. Consultation with other sectors will occur as information is developed or as required.

## **Ecological Goods and Services Policy**

Ken Nickel gave a presentation on the Ecological Goods and Services Policy. Wildlife Habitat Canada has conducted a survey across Canada that determined 70% of Canadian farmers feel they are providing natural capital. The survey can be found at [www.whc.org](http://www.whc.org).

It appears as if this initiative is getting a lot of attention nationally and will be moving forward across the country. One of the goals from a producers perspective is to be remunerated for land that has been set aside for natural capital.

**Action:** The initial step is to hold a one day information session with agricultural leaders in the province to determine what options and principles for ecological goods and services will work in British Columbia. Ken Nickel and Steve Thomson to lead.

## **BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee**

Wray MacDonnell provided an update on the Agriculture and Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting in Kamloops on June 13th. The Ministry of Forests and Range now has a member on the committee.

A number of compensation projects are currently underway. Farm losses due to wildlife damage are being quantified from various regions in the province. The committee has initiated a motion to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands that additional funding for wildlife mitigation be obtained under a new APF agreement. There is a very strong need for continued financial support.

**Recommendation:** The Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee is requesting support from the Partnership Committee for seeking opportunities to continue funding of wildlife agriculture initiatives. Carried

**Recommendation:** The Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee requests support from the Partnership Committee to ensure that funding is available to provide full compensation for eligible claims in the 2006 –2007 fiscal year. Carried

The government co-chairs indicated that they would take the issue forward to their respective Deputy Ministers, however they would not vote in support of a motion to write the Deputy Ministers conveying the need for government to provide additional funds for wildlife damage compensation.

Irmi Critcher reported that there are three pilot projects underway in the Peace River region that will help to develop a strategy for wildlife compensation.

#### *Wildlife Act*

Bob Williams provided a presentation on the review of the Wildlife Act. A new act will be introduced into the legislature in the spring of 2008. This is part of a legislative renewal under the Ministry of Environment.

Current Wildlife Act protects fish and wildlife species and their habitats; protect species at risk and their habitats; manage recreational use of fish and wildlife; manage commercial use of fish and wildlife; and regulate threats to the environment, human health and safety, domestic animals and property. The Wildlife Act also regulates nuisance, problem and dangerous wildlife, and related human causes; manage the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund; issue permits and licenses, undertake compliance and enforcement activities.

The project rationale is to improve conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat; leadership in fish and wildlife management; develop a new relationship with First Nations; partner with British Columbians; and develop new opportunities for recreation and use.

#### **Habitat and Farmland Committee**

Committee status and update provided by Ted van der Gulik on the committee's June 1st meeting.

Key issues discussed:

*Building Setbacks from Watercourses for Agricultural Buildings* – Ted vdg provided the steps that are required to complete the building setback standards.

- The backgrounder for consultation with UBCM is currently being developed. The format will be question and answer. UBCM will pose a number of questions that need to be addressed.
- There is still an issue with respect to greenhouse setbacks. A proposal will be made to the greenhouse sector on a revised greenhouse setback distance. DFO must concur before the proposal will be forwarded to the greenhouse sector.

- Lorne Hunter of the BCAC reiterated the question with respect to how the building setback standards will apply to restrictive covenants. BCAC will forward a statement to the Habitat and Farmland Committee for consideration.

*Vegetation Management Guidelines* – the vegetation management project is proceeding with a number of assessments being conducted throughout the province.

*Riparian Management Farm Practice*

A factsheet has been developed and has been circulated for comment.

*Riparian Management Factsheets*

A number of supplemental factsheets are being prepared to support the Riparian Assessment Guide that has been developed as part of the Environmental Farm Planning program. They have been circulated to agencies for comment.

*Importance of Small Streams*

DFO and MOE expressed concern about fish habitat protection on small streams and channelized streams that have high fish value. MAL indicated that they were willing to work with DFO and MOE on identifying areas where higher levels of protection may be voluntarily implemented through consultation with the agriculture community. A riparian staff person will be retained by MAL to assist in this endeavour.

*Wetland Strategy*

Sylvia Von Schuckmann provided an update on the wetland strategy developed by MOE, Ducks Unlimited and several NGO's.

*Biodiversity Guide*

Sylvia Von Schuckmann circulated a copy of the Biodiversity Workshop Report as a follow up to the workshop held on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**Lunch**

Ted van der Gulik gave a presentation on the Okanagan Basin Water Project. Jim Mattison provided some additional background from the province's perspective.

**Nutrient Management Committee**

MOE has taken over the chair of the committee.

The Fraser Valley soil sampling project is winding down with a final report available this fall. MOE has taken over the chair of the committee.

Ken Nickel provided an update on the Agriculture Waste Management Strategy for the Fraser Valley. A forum will be held this fall to start this project.

**National Agri-Environment Standards Initiative**

Laura Maclean provided an update on this initiative. A national stakeholders workshop was held with invitees from provincial agriculture and environment agencies across the

country. A workshop report will be prepared. Links to Environmental Farm Planning and Ecological Goods and Services may also be made.

Water quality sampling on farms is ongoing in the Okanagan. A biodiversity workshop is being organized for the south Okanagan later in June.

### **Water Management**

*Provincial Water Strategy* – Jim Mattison provided an update on the strategy. Three goals are protect human health, protect watersheds and ensure sustainable use of water. Cabinet has confirmed the goals and directions of the strategy. It is a government strategy that is being led by MOE but is to incorporate all provincial agencies.

*Agriculture Water Strategy* - An Agriculture Water Forum will be organized once the go ahead from MOE on the consultation process is given. MAL will establish a task group to develop principle statements from a MAL perspective that will provide background for discussion in developing an agriculture strategy.

#### *Environment Canada report on Abbotsford Aquifer and Nitrate Monitoring*

Laura Maclean provided an update. Reports have been prepared on the long term nitrate levels in the Abbotsford Aquifer. Comments from the last Partnership Committee were incorporated into the reports. The regional report will be published this summer. The second report has been forwarded to the Environmental Science and Technology Journal and will be published in the journal this summer.

**Action:** Laura Maclean to convene a science forum to discuss the results of the Abbotsford Aquifer studies that have been completed.

#### *Sustainable Irrigation in Canada Report*

Terry Dash provided an update. Eight workshops were held across Canada that provided input from irrigation practitioners, purveyors, researchers and producers. A report has been prepared by the consultant that oversaw and captured input from these consultations but further input may still be required. The report addresses many of the needs that are facing the agriculture sector with respect to infrastructure, allocation, pricing etc. The report provides direction to Agriculture Canada on work planning and activities that can or should be undertaking along with provincial and industry partners. It also provides additional direction for the future development of ag-water programs (such as the National Water Supply Expansion Program).

The report is being finalized and will be forward to the PC committee once the report has been reviewed by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada will also prepare a draft statement on potential roles and future actions they may consider and will circulate to the PC.

## Updates

### **Agri-Food Policy Framework**

*EFP National Farm Stewardship Program* – Phil Bergen provided an update on the NFSP and greencover program. At this point the greencover program uptake is much lower than expected. A report is attached to the minutes.

*AEI Update* – Brian Baehr provided an update on the AEI. A report is attached to the minutes.

*NWSEP* – Phil Bergen provided an update. A report is attached to the minutes.

### **Agenda Items for future meetings:**

\*Suggested for next meeting

- GVRD Presentation on Air Emissions and Alternate Fuels for Greenhouse Industry – target for presentation at November meeting – Steve Thomson
- Climate Change – WLAP
- Sustainable Poultry Group – Kevin Chipperfield\*
- Integrated Land Management Bureau – Mike Lambert\*
- Organic Waste Management Strategy for the Fraser Valley – Jack Bryden
- Alien Species – Ted Lea
- Water Bucket – Ted van der Gulik
- Bio-Fuels – BC Grain Producers
- Wetland Action Plan – Ian Barnet – Ducks Unlimited
- Conservation Branch – Jennifer Dyson
- Provincial Water Strategy – Jim Mattison\*

**Next meeting: November 8th – Chilliwack – FVRD offices**

# Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program

## Introduction

Environmental farm planning is a voluntary process that producers can use to identify both environmental strengths and any potential risks on their farms.

The British Columbia Agriculture Council (BCAC) is delivering the program on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and in co-operation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and the British Columbia ministries of Agriculture and Lands and Environment.

In British Columbia, delivery groups lead the delivery of EFP services at the local level. Delivery groups co-ordinate the delivery of EFP programs to commodity groups and/or to producers in a certain geographic area. Delivery groups are farm organizations with strong connections to the agricultural community.

Delivery groups employ the services of recognized EFP planning advisors. To be recognized by BCAC, planning advisors must have successfully complete an intensive training program. Through workshops or one-on-one meetings with producers, EFP planning advisors help to identify strengths and concerns, suggest appropriate corrective measures, and help prioritize any action items. EFP planning advisors are responsible for approving environmental farm plans, issuing Statements of Completion and assisting producers to access incentive funding.

## Delivery Groups and Contact Information

Delivery Group	Primary Contact	Telephone
BC Cattlemen's Association	Peter Spencer	250-764-0376
BC Fruit Growers Association	Don Magnusson	250-762-5226
BC Grain Producers Association	Julie Robinson	250-782-4501
BC Greenhouse Growers Association	Amandeep Bal	604-591-5349
BC Landscape and Nursery Association	Hedy Dyck	604-574-7772
BC Milk Producers' Association	Dave Melnychuk	604-534-2639
BC Pork Producers Association	Jack Reams	604-858-1715
BC Potato and Vegetable Growers Association	Henry Wiens	604-864-0565
BC Poultry Association	Allen James	604-795-7656
BC Raspberry Industry Development Council	Mike Wallis	604-854-8010
Certified Organic Association of B.C.	Kirsten Kane	250-260-4429
Comox Valley Farmers' Institute	Mary-Jane Douglas	250-337-1834
Creston Valley Agricultural Society	Val Miller	250-229-5313
District "C" Farmers' Institute	Warren Wilson	250-967-4545
Horse Council British Columbia	Vicki Pauze	604-856-4304
Island Farmers' Alliance	Peter Versteegen	250-743-2243
Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia	Julie Robinson	250-782-4501
United Flower Growers Cooperative Association	Susan McLeod	604-290-1185

## Environmental Farm Planning Activities to March 31, 2006

The following statistics are totals from throughout the province since the inception of the program:

- Communication events 341
- Workshops 578
- Producer participants 2819
- Statements of Completion 783

## Incentive Funding Activities to March 31, 2006

The following statistics are totals from throughout the province since the inception of the program:

- Applications reviewed 739
- Applications approved 597
- Program funds to producers (committed and expended) \$3.275 M
- Total project value (approximate) \$11 M
- Ducks Unlimited Canada funding for selected BMP's \$71,432

**Delivery Groups Approved for 2006 / 2007**

The Working Group approved continued funding for the 18 Delivery Groups for the 2006/2007 fiscal year:

- Total approved budget for Delivery Groups \$2.29 M
- Projected Statements of Completion for 2006/2007 1,247

**Contacts**

For additional information contact

Niels Holbek, PAg Tel: 1 877 334-6547 (within B.C.) 1 250 334-6547 (outside B.C.) Fax: 1 250 337-5710 E-mail: efp@island.net		Ron Bertrand, PAg Tel: 604 308-6755 Fax: 604 854-4485 E-mail: rbertrand@shaw.ca
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June 9, 2006

# Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program

## Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment June 15, 2006

### Program Summary:

- The objective of the Program is to provide financial and technical support for the planning and development of sustainable water supplies for agriculture.
- The Program has three components:
  - Tier 1 – On-farm water infrastructure projects such as wells, dugouts and small dams. Irrigation equipment is not eligible. The Program contributes up to one-third of the eligible costs to maximum of \$5,000 per project.
  - Tier 2 – Multi-user infrastructure projects that are larger and will provide water for agricultural purposes. The Program contributes up to one-third of the eligible costs.
  - Tier 3 – Strategic work projects that will serve to increase opportunity for strategic partnerships and enhance understanding of the operational and developmental limitations to the water resources for agriculture in their community or region.
- Total Program funding available: \$5,600,000. Application deadlines are January 1, April 1, June 1, and September 1. The Program ends **March 31, 2008**.
- The Program is managed by a Program Working Group that includes federal, provincial and industry members. The application contact point for Tier 1 is the BC Agriculture Council, (604) 854-4483 and for Tiers 2 & 3, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, (250) 782-3116. Application forms are available at [www.agr.gc.ca/h2o](http://www.agr.gc.ca/h2o).

### Program Activity Highlights:

- Program figures since inception up to and including the April 1, 2006 application date:
  - Tier 1 - 413 applications reviewed, 322 approved, 131 completed, 110 under construction, and 81 canceled. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 1 projects: \$872,676. Original allocation: \$1,900,000.
  - Tier 2 – 26 applications reviewed, 17 approved, 3 completed, and 14 under construction. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 2 projects: \$1,705,487. Original allocation: \$2,500,000.
  - Tier 3 – 53 applications reviewed, 29 approved, 11 completed, and 18 in-process. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 3 projects: \$1,523,168. Original allocation: \$1,100,000.
- There is continued steady interest in all three categories of projects. The original allocation of funding for Tiers 2 & 3 is nearly all committed. However, there is still significant uncommitted funding for Tier 1 projects (on-farm infrastructure). Based on current projections to the end of the program, the Program Working Group will likely re-allocate some Tier 1 funds to Tier 2 or 3 projects to prevent funds from lapsing when the Program ends in March 2008. Continued effort is being made to promote the Program. “Good news” articles are being written for possible use in farm organization newsletters and local media.

Prepared by: Philip Bergen  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
June 7, 2006

## AEI Update

### Operations Update:

- IAF have retained additional resources to focus on a communications plan for AFFF fund initiatives. One of the first projects for Geraldine Auston, until recently with the BC Blueberry Council, is to work with the Agriculture Environment Initiatives program to communicate more about how AEPI funds address issues of public concern.
- Work continues on determining the best opportunities for participating in the nationally developed "Ecological Goods and Services" (EG&S) initiatives. Guidelines for participating in a pilot project are being investigated as well as the possibility of a workshop with broader participation of producer groups, agencies and possibly research oriented institutions.
- The landowner stewardship incentives projects focused on mitigating wildlife impacts are progressing slowly. If successfully developed the concept could become an important part of the EG&S initiative. The other important aspect is that it could demonstrate how a significant monetary contribution from wildlife and environmental groups could be generated to assist in addressing impacts of wildlife on agriculture.

### Financial Update:

- To date 114 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 160 submitted and 57 projects completed.
- Financial status to date
  - \$10.6 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. \$8.64 million has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
  - \$830,000 of \$990,000 of AESI funds has been committed. \$655,000 has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
  - A further \$155,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.
  - \$3.14 million is the estimated MAL expenditures to date for the wildlife compensation projects
- BMP Supplement Funds
  - To date none of the \$1,000,000 committed for new and supplemented of BMP's had been expended.