

## Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 23 held on June 16th, 2004 in Kamloops

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Terry Dever	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
Bud Graham	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
Graham Strachan	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
George Hamilton	BC Agriculture Council
Paddy Doherty	BC Agriculture Council
Randy Cairns	Land and Water BC Inc.
Jim Mattison	Land and Water BC Inc.
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ed Woo	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
George Derksen	Environment Canada
Phil Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Allen James	BC Agriculture Council
Allan Patton	BC Agriculture Council
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Janet Demarcke	Union of BC Municipalities
Heather Douglas	BC Milk Producers
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC
Irmi Critcher	BC Grain Producers
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Jennifer Dyson	BC Agriculture Council
Henry Wiens	BC Agriculture Council
Steve Thomson	BC Agriculture Council
Ron Bertrand	BC Agriculture Council
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council
David Borth	BC Cattleman's Association
Mark Nairn	BC Cattleman's Association
Linda Allison	BC Cattleman's Association
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Stan vander Waal	Greenhouse Industry
Marcus Janzen	Greenhouse Industry
Tom Mulleder	UFG
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Rod Davis	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Jack Bryden	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Mike Younie	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Barb John	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Lynn Bailey	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Ron Smith	Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Tim Cottrell	Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

The meeting was chaired by Hans Buchler  
Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik

## ***Minutes***

Minutes of meeting 22 held on March 9th, 2004 in Victoria – adopted with minor changes. Minutes to be posted on MAFF website.

### ***Items from Minutes***

Status of Chilliwack groundwater bylaw – Janet Demarcke provided a brief update on the groundwater bylaw. The next step is to bring the bylaw to the local agriculture committee and then bring the bylaw back to the PC at a future meeting.

### **Partnership Committee Administrative Items**

Lloyd McKimmon has contacted Ken Vance regarding a Partnership Committee spot at UBCM to present committee mandate and work to be done. A response should be received by mid July.

Task Groups Terms of Reference and Work Plans to be added to PC Web Site. Names of committee members will not be posted, only the list of agencies that are members of the committee.

**Action:** Task Group Chairs to forward information to Ted Van der Gulik

WLAP Partnership Committee representation – Lynn Bailey indicated that Eric Partridge will be PC representative. Eric will be supported by Jack Bryden and Rod Davis.

### **Nutrient Management Task Group**

Ron Bertrand provided an update on group activities. Bruce MacTavish has been retained as a facilitator to review long term options for the Fraser Valley – an options development workshop with the committee was held on February 17<sup>th</sup> and a draft report was presented to the group June 4<sup>th</sup>. The draft has not been released yet. Producer representatives will now go back to their commodity groups to discuss the content of the MacTavish report and provide comments by September 30<sup>th</sup>. An addendum will be added to the report that summarizes comments received from this consultation process and the report will be presented to the Partnership Committee at a future meeting.

EFP nutrient management document is complete and is ready for printing.

Nutrient Management Task Group work plan presented to PC.

- Review nutrient management planning process once planners have completed some plans.
- Group to determine resource material and training needs for nutrient management planning of horticultural crops.
- The Group is also seeking BC interior representation.
- Complete MacTavish report and present to PC.

Presentation by WLAP on an audit of Agricultural Practices in the Fraser Valley over the Hopington and Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifers - Mike Younie.

MAFF and BCAC were presented with a summary of the results previously and have provided some feedback. Survey results indicate that compliance is improving but that further work with some sectors is still required. Survey establishes a methodology that can be replicated in future surveys. Discussed methods of improving communication with producers. WLAP will coordinate the release of the audit with BCAC.

### **BC Agriculture Wildlife Task Group**

Ken Nickel provided an update on the status of the Wildlife Task Group. The Group is to develop a new Terms of Reference and work plan.

A Task Group has been formed to address crop protection with cannons. There are a number of other agencies and organizations dealing with the same issue. A plan to address the issues will be worked on over the next months. It is not expected that anything new will be in place for this production year. A tour of blueberry farms and the cannon issue is planned for July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Incentive Programs for Habitat Enhancement on Private Land – Terry Dever provided an update on the status of this program and the proposed work plan. Jeff Morgan from WLAP has been seconded to work on this project for the next year.

**Action:** Presentation on this program to be given at the PC meeting in the fall.

### **Habitat and Farmland Task Group**

John Patterson provided an update on the Terms of Reference and work plan.

Streamside Protection Regulation – Rod Davis provided an update. SPR will be changed to the Riparian Assessment Regulation. The regulation which deals only with urban land is in front of cabinet at present so details could not be provided.

Building Setbacks from Watercourses for Agricultural Buildings – Sylvia Von Schuckmann provided an update on current status of the Task Group. An assessment of channelized streams is to be done by a Qualified Professional to provide background information to the Task Group. Four streams in the Fraser Valley and four streams in the BC Interior will be assessed. BCAC will consult with producers on this once the agencies have agreed upon a setback proposal.

An agency review and production schedule has been developed for the EFP companion documents and was circulated to the PC.

Bud Graham indicated that drainage management continues to be an issue between agriculture and DFO.

### **Greenhouse Boiler Alternate Fuel**

Stan vander Waal and Marcus Janzen gave a presentation to the PC regarding the costs of fuel and related issues for the Greenhouse Industry. There is an issue with respect to air emissions and restrictions on fuel use imposed by the GVRD on the greenhouse industry. The greenhouse industry has established an Energy Committee with the goal of looking at an “end of pipe” emission standard that is science based for various fuels and consistent for agriculture within the ALR. The standard would be equivalent to other industries or in some cases even better.

GVRD may be looking at classifying greenhouses as commercial/ industrial rather than agricultural. Reclassification would result in the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and the Farm Practice Protection Act not being applicable to greenhouses. The Greenhouse Industry is looking for support from the PC to establish a consistent emission standard. G. Derksen identified that a Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Airshed Strategy was under development (see [http://epb-gl.pacific.int.ec.gc.ca/ep/airshed/index\\_e.htm](http://epb-gl.pacific.int.ec.gc.ca/ep/airshed/index_e.htm) for details).

**Action:** The PC will invite the GVRD to the next PC meeting to discuss their position on alternate fuel use for the greenhouse industry. Lynn Bailey will contact the GVRD and make the invitation for a 20 minute presentation to be followed with some discussion. Lloyd McKimmon will contact the FVRD air quality committee to attend the next meeting.

*Lunch Time Presentation – Strawberry Hill Fire – Graham Strachan MAFF*

### **Water Management**

- Drought Strategy - Jim Mattison gave a presentation on the drought forecast for 2004 and provided an update on the provincial drought management strategy. Local drought management teams are being developed. Handbook is being developed entitled “Dealing with Drought.” Workshops are also being organized for various regions of the province. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed regarding water policy - multi year storage is one issue. Need to link water allocation and drought strategy into a combined policy.
- Water Allocation – Tim Cottrell provided background to water management and planning from the MSRM perspective - “good planning” is “good business.” MSRM is currently not doing very much on water management planning.

**Action:** PC form a Water and Agriculture Task Group to open dialogue on water supply issues for agriculture. Ted van der Gulik to coordinate group and set up a date for task group to meet. The task group will report back to the PC at the fall meeting. PC agency representatives will be invited as well as other key staff from agencies.

- Livestock Water Licencing – Randy Cairns indicated that a meeting is proposed for the second week in July to address licencing issues for livestock.
- Drinking Water Protection Act - Ted van der Gulik provided a quick update. A process is being initiated to review how small water systems will be addressed by the act. The intent is have a more flexible regulatory framework for small systems.

**Action:** Ron Duffell, Ministry of Health will be invited to present results of this review at the next PC meeting.

### **Wildlife Act – BC’s approach to SARA**

Rod Davis provided a presentation of SARA, how species get designated, how the act protects species at risk and how it will be implemented in British Columbia. The act applies to crown land and designated provincial land. The Federal Cabinet can order protection of habitat on private land. Amendments to the provincial Wildlife Act will enable the province to protect additional species. COSEWIC has listed 39 species under the Species at Risk category under the Forest and Range Practices Act. Presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

### **Agriculture Policy Framework**

Steve Thomson provided an update of the EFP program. Meetings on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> will decide on which delivery groups can get funding and start program implementation.

### **Canada British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program**

Phil Bergen provided a status and overview of the program. The NWSEP is operational and accepting applications. A July 1<sup>st</sup> window for accepting applications was added. For the June 1<sup>st</sup> window 30 tier 1 projects and 8 tier 2 and 3 projects were received. The committee expressed concern that the program did not have enough funding. David Borth suggested that Tier 3 dollars be used to commission a study to identify and provide details on water supply projects in British Columbia.

### **Agriculture Environment Initiatives**

Brian Baehr submitted a report on the AEI. The report was provided in the briefing package.

### **Funding Partners**

Ed Woo provided a handout to committee members present.

### **Livestock Access to Watercourses**

George Derksen will provide a handout which will be attached to the minutes.

### **Avian Influenza**

Ken Nickel provided a short report on Avian Influenza. A total of 42 barns and 1.25 million birds were infected between February and May. Cleaning and disinfection of the barns is just being completed. There are 1.6 million birds that have survived and provide the nucleus for repopulation. Repopulation will begin shortly. A mass mortality plan will need to be developed. A review and report of the Avian Influenza will be prepared. An air quality program is being conducted during the repopulation period.

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

- Fraser River Gravel Removal – Presentation by Fraser Basin Council
- Climate Change - WLAP
- Air Emissions - Presentation by GVRD
- Identified Wildlife Management Strategies

**Next meeting:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Abbotsford

**Information Note for the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment - June 16, 2004 meeting.**

Topic: Environment Canada's Livestock Access to Waterways Workshop (May 3-5, 2004)

Background:

- Environment Canada has a lead responsibility along with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to administer Section 36(3) of the Fisheries Act dealing with the deposit of deleterious substances in waters frequented by fish.
- The issue of livestock access to streams and waterways in Ontario and Environment Canada's approach to the issue became particularly relevant in March 2004. Environment Canada (Paula Caldwell St-Onge) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Brian Bohunicky) provided testimony on this issue before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on March 11, 2004.
- Environment Canada organized a workshop on livestock access for May 3-5, 2004. The scope of the workshop included representations on Day 1 from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (Peggy Strankman), Ontario Cattlemen's Association (Chris Attema), PEI Cattlemen's Association (Duane MacDonald) and Alberta Cattle Producers (Erik Butters). Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada also attended. Canadian Cattlemen's Association participated in part of Day 2.
- The goal of the workshop was to hear industry's concerns, consider the approaches Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada use across the country, consider regional differences, and develop a National Policy and Approach.

Status:

- Proceedings for the workshop are being finalized.
- Environment Canada has a mandate and is committed to fulfill its legal obligations and will continue to promote an approach that moves livestock producers towards compliance with the Fisheries Act.
- Environment Canada recognizes that in some instances 100% exclusion can not easily or practically be achieved.
- Environment Canada intends to work with other jurisdictions to encourage the implementation of beneficial management practices that maximize environmental benefits while also respecting producer needs.
- A National Policy and Approach is under development and will be shared with producers as additional information becomes available

Prepared by G. Derksen June 11, 2004