

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Minutes of meeting number 35 held on June 19th and 20th, 2008 in Courtenay

Attendees	Affiliation
Jim Mattison	Ministry of Environment
Steve Thomson	BC Agriculture Council
Jennifer Dyson	BC Agriculture Council
Denise MacDonald	BC Fruit Growers Association
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
George Hamilton	BC Agriculture Council
Linda Allison	BC Agriculture Council
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council
Angela McKee	BC Agriculture Council
Henry Wiens	BC Agriculture Council
Emily MacNair	BC Agriculture Council
Irmi Critcher	BC Agriculture Council
Cornelius Hertgers	BC Milk Producers Association
Allen James	BC Poultry Association
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC
Bob France	BC Cattleman's Association
Lorne Hunter	BC Milk Producers Association
Rick Van Kleeck	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Stuart Wilson	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Alisa Williams	Ministry of Environment
Margaret Crowley	Ministry of Environment
Sylvia von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Randy Cairns	Ministry of Environment
Doug Fraser	Ministry of Forests and Range
Laura MacLean	Environment Canada
Janet Demarcke	Union of BC Municipalities
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
John Berry	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Philip Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Terry Dash	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Geoff Hughes-Games	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Alison Pearce	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Hannah Cavendish-Palmer	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Jill Hatfield	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Sean Darling	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Chair – Allen James - BCAC

Recording Secretary – Ted van der Gulik

1. Minutes

Minutes of meeting number 34 held in Victoria on March 4th are approved and will be posted on web site as final.

2. Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Session

June 19, 2008

Jessica Verhagen- Climate Action Secretariat (CAS)

The following are notes taken from Jessica's presentation:

- Warming in BC is exceeding global trends. CAS wants to dial up-front with impacts of warming.
- Governments have 5 key strategies for meeting GHG reduction targets. These are: regulations, fiscal measures, market mechanisms, support for technology, and behavioural change.
- Legislation initiated by CAS includes the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Target Act of November 2007. A lot of new legislation will be instated by the spring of 2008 including an energy plan, a cap and trade system, green community regulations, and low carbon fuel regulations.
- BC's 2008 Budget included the carbon tax, \$1 billion for climate initiatives, and a climate action dividend to all residents of BC.
 - The carbon tax is designed to be revenue neutral, meaning that every dollar raised is returned to taxpayers. It will take effect on July 1st.
 - The climate action dividend is \$100 dollars for every BC resident.
 - The \$1 billion for climate initiatives includes a provincial transit plan and a biodiesel production incentive, which will be 9 to 14 cents per litre.
- CAS is involved in a climate registry, for which 55 states, provinces, and tribes collect and provide emissions data.
- CAS also represents BC in negotiations about the Western Climate Initiative, which is comprised of 24 members and observers from USA, Canada, and Mexico. It was launched in February of 2007 and its design will be complete by August of 2008.
- CAS has been involved in setting up the Pacific Carbon Trust, a new crown corporation that will be buying offsets for government. They will buy carbon credits at the market price and they would like to only buy offsets from within BC.
- Climate change activities are likely to yield economic activities in clean technology, green retail, and green tourism.

Dennis Peridine- Ministry of Environment (MOE)

The following are notes taken from Dennis's presentation:

- MOE has a team working on greenhouse gas (GHG) adaptation and mitigation.
- Part of their work involves provincial reporting on GHGs for the national inventory. They are working on getting more detailed information than what is currently available within the inventory. Specifically, they are looking at net deforestation, forest management, thermal electricity imports, and cross-border carbon allowances.
- BC's GHG emissions have gone down in recent years.
- MOE is also doing carbon neutral public sector reporting and community energy emissions inventories. The focus of these community inventories is transportation,

which account for 56% of the GHG emission in individual communities. In particular, they are looking at passenger vehicle emissions and trying to reduce kilometres driven and increase miles per gallon. Eventually, there will be miles per gallon standards based on vehicle size.

- BC has a target of capturing 75% of methane emissions from landfills by January 2016.
- MOE has also been developing GHG reporting regulations for cap and trade.
- In 2006, they broke down the GHG emissions from BC agriculture. 36% was from the deforestation of agricultural and range land, 33% was from enteric fermentation, 20% was from agricultural soils, and 11% was from manure management. Agricultural and range land is being deforested at a rate of 3450 hectares per year.
- Potential agricultural offsets in other jurisdictions include manure management, forest conservation, afforestation, reduced tillage, and energy efficiency/fuel switching.

June 20, 2008

Geoff Hughes-Games- Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL)

- Geoff began by defining beneficial management practice (BMP), mitigation, adaptation and outlines the basics of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program. It is currently a roll-over year.
- There have been about 2300 BMPs that have been funded. The greatest uptake has been in the areas of water quality and water quantity. Air, soil, and biodiversity rise to the top of the list when we look at the secondary focus of each BMP that has been implemented.
- GHG Mitigation Practices for Canadian Agriculture program looked at BMPs to figure out which ones could also mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The primary focus is storing carbon, reducing nitrous oxide emissions, and reducing methane emissions.
- Geoff has sorted BMPs into an “A” list and “B” list of BMPs. The A list consists of BMPs that are practical to implement and have a mitigation capability.

Emily MacNair- Investment Agriculture Foundation/BC Agriculture Commission

- Emily’s position was created by the BCAC and the IAF because the industry did not have the resources to deal effectively with climate change.
- They developed an advisory committee first, which has diverse representation that includes industry, provincial and federal employees, as well as academics.
- The committee will discuss all types of climate change issues and they may work with the Climate Action Secretariat to provide feedback on intention papers about climate-related policy.
- Her position is two years, but she will be helping plan short and long term priority projects.
- Her first key focus is learning about climate change and what is going on in the province.

Lisa Zabek- MAL

- The focus of Lisa’s talk was linkages between agroforestry initiatives and GHG mitigation, specifically she explained the work they are doing so far in silvopasture and explained specific demonstration projects.

- She is also working on forest farming and explained specific projects they are involved in, including birch maple syrup research and alley cropping, which involves planting crops between tree rows.
- The amount of carbon sequestration per hectare in each system really varies. We need things that can be demonstrated and acted on so that we can inform the Climate Action Secretariat.

Dave Trotter- MAL

- Riparian area functions include filtration of sediments and nutrients among many others.
- Riparian areas trap surface and sub-surface flows and can help manage the impacts of extreme events. There is less risk of nutrient loss through runoff and leaching.
- Dave explained mitigation potential from riparian areas. Low carbon credit prices are unlikely to result in land use changes. Afforestation may not be worth it until carbon hits \$50 a tonne.
- There are lots of challenges associated with riparian area offsets. There may be more value by looking at this from an ecological goods and services perspective.
- Dave explained integrated riparian management systems, which incorporate a variety of ecological values and have been shown to increase species diversity and fish presence in various field trials.
- Different properties have a variety of capabilities to embrace and develop riparian areas.
- It can be very difficult for farmers to do this in areas of the province with high land values. Various people around the table mentioned that they would prefer non-regulatory policy on riparian management.

Alison Pearce- MAL

- Alison is the policy analyst at MAL that focuses on ecological goods and services policy.
- It is often the case that the public benefits of farmland outweigh the private benefits. Yet, there is no market for public benefits, which means that there is no incentive for farmers to increase the public benefits.
- In public benefits, positive externalities tend to be under-supplied and negative externalities tend to be over-supplied.
- Farms do play a role in reducing greenhouse gas reduction. One way this happens is through carbon sequestration, which is the link to environmental goods and services.
- Various tools are available for government intervention including environmental farm plans, labelling programs, beneficial management practice payments, market-based approaches such as carbon offset markets, tax credits, and regulations
- Possible ecological goods and services programs: natural capital set-asides (riparian buffers, wetlands), agroforestry activities, and increased soil carbon (conservation till and reduced summer fallow).
- It is important that there is flexibility in incentive programs because of multifunctionality- farmland provides many benefits beyond agricultural products.
- There is a federal/provincial working group on this and have launched several pilots across the country.

- Alison stated that we need provincial policy in this area and we need to determine priority issues. It would be good to have a flexible program to target specific regions.

3. Lunch

4. Water Management

BC Water Plan – Jim Mattison MOE

The province released a new plan for water in British Columbia. Jim Mattison provided an overview of the new BC water plan – Living Water Smart.

The plan commits government to 45 actions and targets. These are divided into three categories: protecting stream health, adapting to climate change and being more efficient water users.

Actions that will be taken are:

- Stream health understood and protected
- Change water act allocation framework
- New licences to have a 40 year expiry date
- Groundwater use to be regulated
- Watershed planning supported
- Reserve water for agricultural land
- Water use in BC to be 33% more efficient by 2020
 - Metering of major users
 - Improving on farm efficiency
 - Eliminating ditch conveyance systems
- Conserve and restore watersheds
- Address the impacts from a changing water cycle and other impacts of climate change
- Work with other provinces on water stewardship
- Help manage and reduce flood and drought risks
- Encourage support and fast track greener, smarter community development and infrastructure
- Protect and rehabilitate wetland and waterway function
- Drinking water source and First Nation improvements
- 50% of new municipal water use by conservation
- Smart water choices (e.g. water reuse, labelling, household evaluations)
- Student and public engagement and rewards for water heroes

Plan Implementation includes:

- Public engagement is key
- A book, brochure and website have been developed
- Consultation with various sectors

Implications to Agriculture

- Water security
- Drought strategy
- Fair and equitable conservation and regulation

- Measure and report water use
- Provision for greater information for water management
- Agriculture engagement needed to ensure agriculture needs satisfied in water policy development
- Seeking participation on Water Act Modernisation working groups
- Partnerships on water conservation and outreach to progress efficiency

The website to visit the water plan is www.livingwatersmart.ca

5. **Habitat and Farmland Committee Report**

The Habitat and Farmland Committee did not meet since the last Partnership Committee meeting. However a letter from MOE and DFO was received accepting the agriculture building setbacks as drafted by the committee. The next step is to set up a meeting with BCAC to get their endorsement on the proposed setbacks. If endorsement is received then an MOU between agencies will be drafted that will lay out the roles of each agency for the implementation of establishing the standards throughout BC.

Action: Ted vdG to forward a copy of the letter received from DFO and MOE to the BCAC. BCAC and MAL will coordinate an information session with BCAC representatives to obtain endorsement from the agriculture sector.

Biodiversity Guide – Sylvia von Schuckmann

A draft of the Biodiversity Guide has been completed. The document will be posted on the BCIA web site along with the other EFP documents. Limited copies have been printed primarily for distribution to EFP Planning Advisors and to assist farmers to who plan to develop biodiversity plans on their farms. Additional documentation and training are being planned to assist users to make the best use of the guide. Ducks Unlimited has confirmed funding for preparation of 60 biodiversity plans on BC farms this year.

6. **Wildlife Committee Report**

The committee met on June 16th and 17th. Brian Baehr circulated an update on BC Wildlife initiatives that was discussed at the meeting. A copy of the document is attached to the minutes.

7. **Nutrient Management Committee Report**

Geoff Hughes-Games provided a brief summary of the meeting held on June 12th. Results of the Okanagan Agricultural Soil Study will be forwarded to cooperating producers in July. Poultry Nutrient Movement Study will have a report in July. A committee report is attached to the minutes.

8. **MOE Code of Practice and Regulatory Review**

Margaret Crowley provided a quick overview of the code of practice development and regulatory review process under the Environmental Management Act. The process allows for a more flexible authorization framework than the Waste Management Act which was its predecessor. The Act increases enforcement options and also uses modern environmental management tools. A status of the codes of practice and regulations enacted and those under review are attached to the minutes.

9. Federal Provincial Programming

John Berry provided an update on the Federal Provincial Growing Forward programming for 2009 and onwards.

10. Written Updates attached to the Minutes.

- Specified Risk Materials
- AEI Committee
- EFP/NFSP Greencover
- CBCNWSEP
- NAESI

11. Items for Future Meetings

Climate Change Focus Session on Adaptation

Waterbucket – TvdG

Metro Vancouver Air Emissions Issue

Alien Species – Laura Darling

12. Next Meeting – AAC in Abbotsford, Thursday, November 6th, 2008

BC Nutrient Management Working Group Update

for

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment June 20, 2008

Prepared by Orlando Schmidt

This report provides highlights of current activities being carried out by the Nutrient Management Working Group and reflects a summary of the group's most recent meeting on June 10, 2008.

1. Okanagan Agricultural Soil Study

Soil sampling for this project was completed in the summer and fall of 2007. By March 31, 2008, approximately 90% of the analytical work was completed in Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's soil testing labs in Summerland and Agassiz. As project funding terminated on March 31, finalizing the analytical work is being completed by a skeleton crew of permanent staff and is proceeding much more slowly. It is anticipated that the data for individual producer reports will be ready to be sent out in July 2008 and the detailed scientific report will be ready by late in 2008.

2. Poultry Manure Movement Study

Funds were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to the BC Agriculture Council to complete a one year study that will quantify the distribution of poultry manure both within the Fraser Valley and to markets outside of the Fraser Valley. The consulting firm Ference & Weicker was awarded a contract by BCAC to conduct the study. The major poultry manure trucking firms in the Fraser Valley were contacted and most agreed to participate in the study. The trucking firms will submit forms on a regular basis to the consultant with general data on their deliveries. Project duration will be from May 2008 to April 2009.

3. Report on Inter-provincial meeting on Nutrient Management Approaches – George Rushworth and Orlando Schmidt

The inter-provincial meeting took place on May 6-8, 2008 in Guelph, Ontario, and consisted of 50 individuals from 9 provinces.

The meeting focused on different nutrient management approaches implemented by the provinces. Nutrient Management approaches ranged from strictly voluntary to a blend of voluntary and regulatory.

- Voluntary Provinces: British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland/Labrador
- Mostly voluntary: Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island
- Provinces with blend of voluntary and regulatory: Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta

One lesson learned from other provinces was that changes in nutrient management approaches from voluntary to more mandatory were frequently driven by some environmental event. For example, the phosphorous-based legislation for Quebec and Manitoba was largely driven by the increasing presence of blue-green algae in lakes (e.g. Lake Winnipeg), that has been largely attributed to nutrients from agriculture. The Ontario Government brought in regulation after the Walkerton incident although the planning for the regulation started before the event in the late 1990's. The Ontario Government has 56 staff (40 Agricultural and 16 Environmental) focused on nutrient management.

This presentation generated a discussion on the state of voluntary NMP in BC. Industry representatives questioned if BC was heading in the direction of mandatory NMP and if that was necessary, how this message will get delivered to the producers. Do changes need to occur to the delivery of the EFP? It was pointed out that BC MoE may need to do more compliance and enforcement activities to deal with the few “bad actors” to build credibility.

The term “Social Currency” was introduced. Aquaculturalists in BC did not fully consider the implications of some of their management practices and related effects on social currency. Now aquaculture is a real public concern. The public is becoming more aware and it may not be a good idea for producers to make decisions solely for economic reasons.

4. Nutrient Management on the Farm – The Experiences of a Planning Advisor - Dave Melnychuk

DM completes NMP primarily with the dairy industry. He receives his direction from the dairy steering committee with feedback/direction given to him every three months. As the NMP is a sub-program of the EFP, DM completes the EFP with the producer and from that process determines if the NMP portion of the EFP is triggered. DM suggests to producers that they should consider completing a NMP as a management tool. Producers are becoming more interested in NMP as manure is seen now as a resource (economic benefit) that can offset the increasing costs of chemical fertilizers.

To complete a NMP, DM collects soil and manure samples himself to get representative samples. The samples are submitted to Bodycote Testing Group to analyze for N, P, K, pH, electrical conductivity and, calcium and magnesium.

The analytical results are then input into the NMP model, an Excel spreadsheet, to generate data that can be adapted for use with the producer to produce a NMP. The model is limited in that it does not account for all variables, including soil type and conditions which vary from farm to farm.

Despite its limitations, DM feels NMP is a good guide for producers to follow and that it should be encouraged to be a part of all farm practices. It also needs to be updated periodically to reflect the changes to farms like number of animals, feed types etc.

5. Follow-up to Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study

In light of the Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study findings and in hopes of a new Growing Forward program being in place in 2009, MAL staff are currently evaluating the tools currently being used for nutrient management planning and planning for an improved delivery model. Table 1 identifies some of the gaps identified to date and proposed solutions.

Current Gaps	Proposed Solutions
Soil testing and interpretation methods in BC are not standardized.	Conduct survey of soil testing labs being used by BC farmers to determine all the different analytical and interpretation methods currently in place.
Current nutrient management planning materials are geared towards forage crop production (i.e. dairy) but weak for other	Develop new tools for nutrient management planning (software and reference material) that are customized for other sectors, especially

sectors including horticulture and other livestock	berry crops, vegetable crops, and poultry farms.
Communication with industry	Conduct a series of producer workshops in the fall of 2008 to discuss meaning of Fraser Valley soil study results, test new tools and seek producer guidance on improvements proposed.

6. Terms of Reference and 2008 Workplan

Updates of both of these documents were recently updated and will be posted to the Partnership Committee website shortly.

AEI Management Committee Update Wildlife Initiatives – June 1, 2008

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

2008 Interim Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

- MAL has established a team lead by the Business Risk Management Branch to develop and implement an “interim” version of a Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP)
- The objectives for 2008 include supporting all of the existing pilot program areas initiated in cooperation with the AEPI funded initiatives over the past several years. All would be delivered by the same producer oriented groups as they currently exist
- The 2008 Interim WDCP consists mainly of a forage loss compensation component for the remainder of the province that will target the first cut of forage for this year.
- Producers enrolled in existing forage loss pilots will be eligible for compensation related to the full season
- Status of compensation pilots managed with AEI
 - The Cariboo project will be expanded to include the south Cariboo group that had asked to be included in the Cariboo Forage Loss Program last year and a waterfowl damage component has been added to that program as well.
 - The East Kootenay Program is expanding to the Creston area under the same terms as the existing program.
 - Both the Delta and Comox waterfowl damage compensation programs will be continued unchanged.
 - The Wild Predator Loss Compensation Program is expected to continue in much the same format as in previous years.

Linkage of Mitigation to Compensation

- Eligibility under the 2008 WDCP states:
 - “Applicants must be committed to reducing wildlife depredation on crops by using mitigation and prevention activities”
- Mitigation in the 3 major conflict categories include:
 - Ungulates and Forage
 - Key initiatives include enfranchisement projects, EFP wildlife damage prevention BMP’s, and PAZWP
 - Waterfowl and Forage
 - Limited opportunity but mostly related to on-farm practices
 - Predators and Livestock
 - Wild Predator Loss Control Program managed by BCCA
- Provincial Ag Zone Wildlife Program (PAZWP)
 - Current focus on liberalizing hunting regulations to facilitate management of wild ungulate populations in agricultural areas
 - Investigating establishment of an agricultural zone hunting tag
 - Emphasis on antlerless animals and flexibility in the setting of seasons to improve the effectiveness of hunting to reduce losses

Links to AEI Funded Enfranchisement and Mitigation Projects

- **Landowner Enfranchisement Initiatives**

- The two currently approved and funded “enfranchisement” projects are shifting focus to **hunt coordination**.
 - Recognition for forage losses is being addressed by MAL through the WDCP
 - Hunting is still the single most important “tool” remaining for management of wildlife population
- Participation by producers in hunt coordination may provide assurances of meeting WDCP requirements for mitigation and prevention.
 - Recruitment of new hunters is a priority of the BCWF as a means of reversing a trend to a reduction in hunter numbers
 - Improved access to private lands by hunters is also a priority of BCWF but not necessarily welcomed by producers
- The PAZWP initiative of MoE provides a complimentary focus on improving the effectiveness of hunting in agricultural zones that will lead to reduced depredation.

- **Peace River Landowner Enfranchisement Program**

- Seeking to encourage current participants to enroll in 2008 Interim WDCP then add project funds to match incentive level paid in first year of participation
- One year completed of hunt coordination. Positive responses from both hunters and producers. Most hunters travel from lower mainland area.
- Looking to expand area covered but only with MAL IWDCP for main incentive
- Approval given to provide incentives to participants in the form of assistance with purchase and construction of enclosure cages recommended by WDCP
- Investigating opportunities for producers to benefit more from providing on-farm facilities for hunter RV's through an on-line coordinated system

- **East Kootenay Landowner Enfranchisement Program**

- Participants are currently enrolled in EK Wildlife Damage Compensation Pilot
- Two years completed in hunt coordination. Positive responses received by hunters and producers in follow-up surveys conducted each year.
- Producers in Creston Valley area have expressed interest in participating in 2008. They may be included in the EK Wildlife Damage Compensation Pilot area and thus being eligible for losses occurring beyond the first cut
- Cooperating in investigation of on-line accommodation services for hunters

- **Wild Predator Loss Prevention Program**

- Benefits livestock industry - mainly cattle – by targeting wild predators
- Provides mitigation and prevention initiative to match the compensation component
- Funding currently under review

- **Waterfowl Damage Prevention Initiatives**

- Both the Delta and Comox Valley projects have mitigation components
- The emphasis is primarily on land and crop management

BC Environmental Farm Plan – Beneficial Management Practices

- The Wildlife Damage Prevention BMP has provided access for producers to assistance with constructing wildlife exclosure fencing
- The status of the inclusion of this BMP in both a transitional and/or new EFP initiative is not known
- Opportunities may be available to add additional on-farm works relative to facilitating hunting in agricultural areas

BEB/AEI Coordinator

June 1, 2008

Presentation to the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Ministry of Environment Codes and Regulations Review

Website for more detail:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema_codes_of_practice/index.html

Codes of Practice and Regulations enacted:

<i>Code of Practice/ Regulation</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Discharge of Produced Water from Coalbed Gas Operations Code of Practice	July 1, 2005
Code of Practice for the Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries (SPPI Code)	June 30, 2007 Registration required as of September 30, 2007.
Concrete and Concrete Products Industry Code of Practice	November 1, 2007. Registration required as of March 1, 2008.
Code Of Practice for Soil Amendments	September 1, 2007
Municipal Sewage Regulation – minor amendments	October 4, 2007
Vehicle Dismantling and Recycling Industry Planning Regulation	September 1, 2007. Registration required as of September 1, 2008.

<i>Code of Practice / Regulation</i>	<i>Current Phase</i>
Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (greenhouse boilers)	Legislative Drafting
Discharge of Produced Water from Coalbed Gas Operations Code of Practice	Working on amendments to the Code to reflect what was stated in the BC Energy Plan, announced in February 2007
Finfish Aquaculture Waste Control Regulation	Development of Policy Intentions Paper for consultation
Hazardous Waste Regulation Phase 1 - minor amendments	Legislative Drafting
Hazardous Waste Regulation Phase 2 - major amendments	Policy Intentions Paper posted for consultation – deadline for response was June 5, 2008. Reviewing and summarizing feedback.
Code of Practice for Industrial Non-hazardous Waste Landfills incidental to the Wood Processing Industry	Legislative Drafting
Proposed Landfill Gas Regulation	Policy Intentions Paper posted for consultation. Deadline for submissions – September 15, 2008.
Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	Policy Intentions Paper posted for consultation. Deadline for submissions has been extended to July 21, 2008. A map of the zones has been added to the website.
Organic Matter Recycling Regulation	Legislative Drafting
Primary Wood Manufacturing Industry Code	Development of Policy Intentions Paper for consultation.
Wood Residue Burner and Incinerator Regulation (Beehive Burner Phase Out)	Scoping and Policy Development

Living Water Smart – A Plan for Water Sustainability

VANCOUVER – More than 40 actions and targets in a new government-wide plan will help all sectors, communities and British Columbians keep the province’s water healthy and secure, now and in the future, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced today.

“Water defines British Columbia and it is essential to our quality of life,” said Penner. “Living Water Smart: British Columbia’s Water Plan lays out the vision and steps needed to protect our rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds. This plan will make B.C. a leader in water stewardship, fits with our overarching strategy to protect the environment and positions us for continued success in the 21st century.”

Living Water Smart is a blueprint for cultural, environmental, industrial, community and agricultural change that will help safeguard the province’s water resources into the future. Drawing on a variety of policy measures, including planning, regulatory change, education, and incentives like economic instruments and rewards, the plan commits to new actions and builds on existing efforts to protect and keep B.C.’s water healthy and secure.

“We commend government for this strategic focus on water, a vital resource for B.C.’s growing agricultural sector and the farmers and ranchers who depend on a secure source of water to sustain production,” said Steve Thomson, executive director for the BC Agriculture Council.

Key actions include setting ambitious water efficiency and conservation targets, establishing flow requirements in legislation for ecosystems and species, establishing a maximum 40-year term for water licenses in areas of scarcity, regulating large groundwater withdrawals, and looking to safeguard and learn from First Nations’ traditional and cultural water uses.

The announcement took place at Musqueam Creek, where a wild salmon habitat restoration project is being led by the community-based, non-profit Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Society (MECS). “As more British Columbians make water stewardship and conservation a part of their daily lives, we’ll be better able to preserve the diverse habitats and species of unique ecosystems like Musqueam Creek,” said Christina Nahanee, outreach and events co-ordinator for MECS.

B.C.’s economy and industry continue to grow, and its population is expected to increase by another 1.4 million people in the next 25 years. In some areas, like the Okanagan and Gulf Islands, seasonal water shortages are already challenging community water systems, and the fish and aquatic ecosystems that depend on these systems for survival. Climate change and its related effects, like the mountain pine beetle and changing water cycles, are also adding to the pressures on fresh waters. As a finite resource, the current rate of water use is not sustainable when population and industry growth – along with climate change – are considered.

“We’re interested in planning for long-term, balanced growth that will leave a legacy for the future – a strategy we see reflected in the Living Water Smart plan,” said Maureen Enser, executive director of the Urban Development Institute.

“Living Water Smart provides leadership that will help improve the way we build and protect communities, use our water resources and sustain our quality of life,” added Scott Veitch, president of the British Columbia Real Estate Association.

For more information on Living Water Smart and how to be a part of the solution, visit www.livingwatersmart.ca.

Living Water Smart – A Plan for Business and Communities

Living Water Smart plan is government's vision and plan to keep British Columbia's water healthy and secure for the future. The following list outlines some of the changes the provincial government will make to the management and regulation of B.C.'s water resources.

By 2012, the provincial government will:

- Establish flow requirements in legislation for ecosystems and species.
- Ensure that all land and water managers know what makes a stream healthy.
- Require all users to cut back on water use in times of drought or where stream health is at risk.
- Limit all new licences to 40-years where there is high demand and pressure on water.
- Regulate groundwater use in priority areas and large groundwater withdrawals.
- Support watershed management planning in priority areas.
- Require all large water users to measure and report their water use.
- Require more efficient water use in the agriculture sector and secure access to water for agricultural lands.
- Address the changing water drought risk and other effects of climate change.
- Require any new developments in flood plains to be flood-proofed to high provincial standards and provide \$100 million for flood protection over 10 years.
- Report out on the state of our water every five years.
- Require all students in B.C. to complete at least one stream-health assessment.

The provincial government has also committed to:

- Mandate purple pipes for water collection and reuse by 2010.
- Restore the ecology (in partnership with others) of a 30-km section of stream between Vaseux Lake and Osoyoos Lake.
- Fund the Tsolum River acid rock drainage clean-up project with \$4.5 million to restore fish stocks.
- Provide incentives for the restoration of streams or wetlands.
- Give priority to and fast-track provincial approvals of green developments.
- Protect and improve the quality of drinking water sources.
- Ensure drinking water in all Aboriginal communities meets provincial standards by 2015.
- Develop tools to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in decision making.
- Require water-conserving plumbing fixtures such as low flush toilets and establish a water efficiency labelling system for water-consuming products.

- Award a youth water-science prize or scholarship for excellence in water stewardship.
- Provide summer jobs for youth, ages 16 to 22, for stream restoration projects across the province.
- Work with its partners to use sports and the Olympic spotlight to engage British Columbians and support smarter water choices.

Living Water Smart – A Plan for all British Columbians

British Columbians use 490 litres per person per day – much more water than we need. By conserving water, we can reduce environmental impacts, demands on water supplies, water and wastewater treatment and infrastructure, and save money for ourselves and our communities. Here are some easy and inexpensive ways you can be part of the solution.

Be Water Smart Inside

Think water efficiency next time you buy products like washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, irrigation systems, taps and toilets.

- Replace your toilet with a low-flow or dual-flush model. A new six-litre flush model can save up to 25,000 litres per year for a typical family.
- Don't use your toilet as a waste basket.
- Shower under a low-flow showerhead. This will save the average family up to 20,000 litres/year. You'll also save money on your energy bill by heating less water.
- Next time you have to replace your washing machine, look for a water-efficient, front-loading model. These models also require less energy and save money in the long term.
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or wash your vegetables. This simple step can save up to 20 litres a minute and hundreds of litres a year.
- Fix leaks and dripping taps. A small leak can add up to hundreds of litres a year.

Be Water Smart Outside

- Be a water smart gardener. Garden watering is the single biggest water use in the average home – often more than one-third of water use occurs outdoors. An average garden hose uses up to 20 litres per minute.
- Landscape using native or drought-resistant plants and garden designs that minimize water use.
- Water no more than twice a week and for less than an hour. Most plants will thrive with far less water than we currently use.
- Collect rainwater for watering the garden. Water the roots of your plants, instead of the leaves, with an efficient method like drip irrigation.
- Watch the weather before watering the garden. If rain is predicted, let Mother Nature take care of the job for you. Avoid watering in windy or hot conditions, when the vast majority of water will be lost to evaporation.
- Use a broom to sweep driveways and paths instead of the garden hose. You'll get some exercise this way, too.
- Apply a layer of mulch on your garden beds and leave the grass a little bit longer. You'll save work by watering less frequently and mowing the lawn less often.

Make Water Smart Choices Every Day

- Share your smart water choices with friends and neighbours.
- Don't throw chemicals or toxic solids down the sink, toilet or storm drains. They pollute the environment and cause costly water quality problems.
- Buy low phosphate or phosphate-free detergents to reduce pollution in lakes and streams – check the labels to decide which one is best for your needs.
- Use fertilizer and compost in the right quantity. Any extra fertilizer runs off your garden when it rains and the extra growth that fertilizer promotes can negatively impact creeks, rivers and the ocean.
- Drive your car onto the grass when you are going to wash it and remember more soap and chemicals are not always better.
- Reduce the use of hazardous products in your home and garden.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Avoid applying them close to a well.
- Take paints, oils, batteries and other hazardous materials to the nearest recycling or collection facility.
- Do not pour anything except water into storm sewer grates. These sewers flow directly into waterways.
- If you are on a septic system, ensure that it is regularly maintained.
- Check out www.waterbucket.ca for more tips on how to save water at home, on the farm, at work and in your community.

Agriculture Environment Initiatives UPDATE

Operations Highlights:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) has stepped full swing into implementation of an "Interim" Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. The main focus for this year is to address wild ungulate impacts on the first cut of forage crops and possibly a cereal crop deer excreta contamination as well. The approach has been to expand the access to benefits to areas not previously covered under AEI initiated projects in the past. All of the previously operating regional crop loss compensation programs have been retained including the waterfowl and wild predator loss compensation programs. MAL staff are emphasizing that this is an interim Program.
- With the renewed and increased emphasis on wildlife issues, the AEI Management Committee will need to reassess its priorities related to the overall initiative, particularly related to development of prevention and mitigation component.
- Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC has confirmed extension of the termination date for the current AEPI and AESI funds to June 30, 2009. The target for wrapping up approved projects is March 31, 2009.

Financial Update:

- To date 147 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 213 submitted and 89 projects completed.
- Financial status to date
 - \$11.6 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. Included in that is the commitment related to the \$1,000,000 allocated for new and supplemental BMP's.
 - \$904,000 AESI funds have been committed
 - A further \$403,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.

Brian Baehr, AEI Coordinator

June 2, 2008



Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program and National Farm Stewardship Program Update.

http://www.bcac.bc.ca/EFP_pages/about_us/index.html

2008/09 Continuity Year:

- The 2008.09 Continuity Year Agreement (between Investment Agriculture Foundation and the BC Agriculture Council) for \$3.288 million has been signed by all parties.
- The EFP/NFSP Working Group has decided to maximize funds to producers for Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) projects, while keeping the planning component of the program for the full year. Their direction regarding agreement funds was \$1.2 million for delivery and administration and \$2.088 million for BMP funding.
- Planning will be offered by smaller number of Delivery Groups as listed below.
- **Current Delivery Groups and Contact Information**

Delivery Group	Coordinator/Main Contact	Phone Number
BC Cattlemen's Association	Peter Spencer	250-764-0376
BC Fruit Growers Association	Don Magnuson,	250-717-6948
BC Landscape & Nursery Association (Floriculture and Greenhouse)	Hedy Dyck	604-574-7772
BC Milk Producers' Association	Dave Melnychuk	604-812-3276
Mainland Fruit and Vegetable (Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers' Association)	Jyl Singh	604-807-5659
BC Poultry Association	Allen James	604-795-7656
Certified Organic Associations of BC	Paddy Doherty	250-747-3287
Island Farmers' Alliance	Peter Versteegen	250-743-2243

- An additional \$1 million grant has been received from the BCMAL and will be used for BMP funding. This grant money does not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.
- At a recent EFP/NFSP Working Group meeting it was decided that \$500,000 of the BCMAL grant of \$1,000,000 was to go to BMP projects. Once the combined funding was fully allocated a further decision would be made.
- A change to the BMP program has been made to better manage limited funding. A farm is limited to apply for 2 BMP projects this year. These are to be the top two environmental priorities for the farm as decided in consultation with the Planning Advisor but there must also be consideration to the affordability of those projects by the farm.
- Applications were accepted as of April 3, 2008, projects are to be completed by December 31, 2008 and all receipts and invoices are to be received by January 31, 2009.

- BMP Project Details to date:
 - 2008/09 Applications approved 320
 - Program funds to producers (committed) \$ 2.01 M
 - Total project value (approximate) \$ 6.00 M (est.)
- Some 2008/09 projects have already completed.

Environmental Farm Planning Activities to March 31, 2008

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

• Communication events	629
• Workshops	1917
• Producer participants	4942
• Statements of Completion	2324

- There were a total of 2901 BMP projects in the system at the program end.
- In March alone the ARDCORP office received invoices and receipts for 511 of these projects.
- At March 31, 2008 there were 780 projects left to process and pay. The approved project value of these projects totaled approximately \$4.7 million
- 439 projects were not completed at the end of the program and their approved project value totaled approximately \$2.8 million.
- Since March 31, 2008 approximately 320 of the 780 to pay after year end have been paid. This leaves us with 460 yet to process and pay. Staff continue to work diligently on the processing of these projects but for the most part this is a very time consuming task.

Prepared By:

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Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program

Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment May 2008

Previous Program Activity Highlights:

The original 5 year Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program ended March 31, 2008. The following are highlights of some program statistics.

Program figures from inception in May 2004 to March 2008:

- Total Program funding available: \$5,600,000
- Tier 1 – On farm water infrastructure projects: 729 applications reviewed, 608 approved, 336 completed. Total funding paid to producers \$1,039,000 where the total value of the projects was \$3,910,000.
- Tier 2 – Multi-user infrastructure projects: 36 applications reviewed, 26 approved, 23 completed. Total funding provided to projects \$2,276,000.
- Tier 3 – Strategic works projects: 61 applications reviewed, 38 approved, 37 completed. Total funding provided to projects \$1,932,000.

Continuity Year Program:

In early April a federal-provincial continuity agreement was signed allowing for the Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program to continue for an additional year with a separate allocation of funding. The agreement provides \$1,800,000 with notional allocations of \$500,000, \$800,000, and \$500,000 for Tiers 1, 2, and 3 respectively. Similar to the previous program, the program objective is to provide financial and technical support for the planning and development of sustainable water supplies for agriculture. The application deadlines for the 2008/09 continuity year program are May 1, June 1 and September 1, 2008. The Program ends March 31, 2009. The Program's three Tiers are summarized below:

- 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. Projects must be completed by January 31, 2009.
- 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.

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. Program information and application forms are also available on-line at www.agr.gc.ca/water

Prepared by: Philip Bergen
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
May 23, 2008

The Canada-British Columbia Agreement Establishing the Facilitation of The Disposal of Specified Risk Materials (SRM) Program was signed on April 11, 2007. The Canada-British Columbia Specified Risk Material Management Program (BCSRMMP) is funded through a 60:40 federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The program is designed to assist the province's beef processing sector in complying with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's enhanced feed ban regulation. The purpose of the Agreement is to assist industry in adapting to new controls on animal feed by improving adequate disposal infrastructure; and, where applicable, investing in research to seek long-term, value-added uses for SRM.

There are six areas of support or subprograms under the BCSRMP. These include:

- A.** On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation and Storage;
- B.** On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Destruction or Containment;
- C.** Regional/Community SRM Destruction or Containment;
- D.** Bovine Dead Stock Storage, Destruction or Containment;
- E.** Environmental Assessments required for SRM Projects; and
- F.** On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation, Storage, Destruction or Containment.

There have been 13 completed projects to date under the BCSRMP, for a combined federal funding agreement amount of \$ 755,551. Out of the 13 completed projects:

8 were completed under Subprogram A – On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation and Storage;
1 was completed under Subprogram B – On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Destruction Or Containment;
1 was completed under Subprogram C – Regional/Community SRM Destruction or Containment; and
3 were completed under Miscellaneous funding.

There are 14 projects in progress to date under the BCSRMP, for a combined federal funding offered amount of \$ 1,173,707. Out of the 14 projects in progress:

7 have applied under Subprogram A – On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation and Storage;
2 have applied under Subprogram B – On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Destruction Or Containment;
1 has applied under Subprogram C – Regional/Community SRM Destruction or Containment;
2 have applied under Subprogram D – Bovine Dead Stock Storage, Destruction or Containment; and
2 have applied under Subprogram F – On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation, Storage, Destruction or Containment.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects in progress, there are 17 projects for which incomplete applications have been received and are currently being processed.

The focus moving forward for the BCSRMP is to implement Regional/Community solutions to establish long-term solutions in regions of the Province where they are currently inadequate or non-existent. The obstacles that the program must overcome arise from the negative public perception pertaining to environmental and social concerns associated with slaughterhouse and SRM waste disposal options.



SRM Program



SRM Program	SRM Program Applications Received	Incomplete Applications	Applications Approved by Adj. Committee	Agreements Offered	Agreements Accepted and Signed	Total Program Funds Offered	Total Program Funds Paid
Programs A & B: On-Site SRM Separation, Storage, Containment, and Destruction	27 (-1 withdrawn)	8 of 26	18 of 18	18 of 18	16 of 18	\$ 1,600,217	\$ 465,557
Program C: Regional Containment & Destruction	6	4 of 6	2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2	\$ 14,216	\$ 6,055
Program D: Deadstock	3	1 of 3	2 of 2 (Executive)	2 of 2	2 of 2	\$ 150,619	-
Program E: Env. Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program F: New On-Site	5	3 of 5	2 of 2	2 of 2	1 of 2	\$ 150,531	-
Misc. Funding	4	1 of 4	3 of 3	3 of 3	3 of 3	\$ 13,675	\$ 12,537