

## Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 22 held on March 9<sup>th</sup> , 2004 in Victoria

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Terry Dever	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries
George Hamilton	BC Agriculture Council
Paddy Doherty	BC Agriculture Council
Harry Vogt	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
John Berry	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
Randy Cairns	Land and Water BC Inc.
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
George Derksen	Environment Canada
Ed Woo	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Allen James	BC Agriculture Council
Allan Patton	BC Agriculture Council
Mike Badry	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Mike Wei	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Lee Thiessen	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Valerie Cameron	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Heather Douglas	BC Milk Producers
Len Bouman	BC Milk Producers
Lynn Wilson	F.A.R.M. Community Council
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC
Irmi Critcher	BC Grain Producers
Marcel Grashof	BC Poultry Producers Association
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 Agriculture Council
Niels Holbek	BC Agriculture Council
Mark Nairn	BC Agriculture Council
Ted Van der Gulik	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

The meeting was chaired by Terry Dever  
Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik

## **Breakfast Meeting**

Attended by Ministers Barisoff (Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection) and Van Dongen (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries), Frank Leonard, Chair UBCM, and senior representatives from agencies.

Presentation on Partnership Committee Key Achievements and Priorities – Steve Thomson

Presentation on Environmental Farm Planning

- Federal Role - John Berry
- Program Partners – Terry Dever  
Walter Goertzen
- EFP- Neils Holbek, Ron Bertrand

Partnership Committee – signing of revised Terms of Reference by senior representatives of Committee partners

## ***Minutes***

Minutes of meeting 21 held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in Abbotsford – adopted as circulated

## ***Items from Minutes***

Status of Chilliwack groundwater bylaw – no action in the past three months but will be brought forward at the next meeting

## **Partnership Committee Administrative Items**

Membership - Eric Partridge is now the official rep from WALP

Meeting attendance- Committee agency representatives can decide who should attend PC meetings

Work Plan – George Derksen provided a draft outline of a proposed work plan. Intent is to provide some rigor to what the Partnership Committee is doing and where it is going.

**Action:** Template is adopted – committee chairs to provide information to Ted vdG. A draft work plan to be developed for next meeting.

**Action:** Partnership Committee should obtain a spot at UBCM to present committee mandate and work to be done. Lloyd McKimmon to initiate discussions with UBCM.

## **Habitat and Farmland Committee**

Steve Thomson provided overview of committee and tabled Terms of Reference for review. ToR endorsed by committee. Habitat and Farmland committee will take over the work of the Riparian, Drainage and Building Setback committees. These other committees will be disbanded although working groups will continue to operate under this committee. Water allocation and management have not been mandated to this committee as yet.

- Drainage management – guideline document is being prepared as part of the EFP documents. Will replace the Drainage Watercourse Guide

- Irrigation Management – new document – in preparation and has not yet been reviewed
- Riparian Management – document is existing but is being updated based on experience delivering EFP Planner workshops
- Building setbacks – waiting for Streamside Protection Regulation information so agriculture building setbacks can be established. WLAP is working on SPR.
- Land clearing – issue to be added to work plan

### **Agriculture Policy Framework**

John Berry provided brief overview of APF. Agreement has been signed. Green Cover and National Farm Stewardship funding program are part of the agreement. Program Working Group has been established. The first window for commodity group applications will be May 15th.

### **Blueberry Cannons**

Jennifer Dyson presented concerns regarding crop protection and the use of cannons. Identified the need for other options to protect crops from bird damage. General discussion on issue regarding crop protection ensued. Consensus is that if tools for crop protection are being taken away from producers (policy decision) then a review of policy should be initiated by the PC. There is an expectation that there should be shared funding for other alternatives.

**Action** – The BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee to coordinate issue. Establish a working group, including commodity groups, local governments and agencies to prepare a plan. Plan will:

- Share what is being done
- Assess cost to industry
- Look for alternatives
- Identify potential partners and funding options
- Report back to PC.

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

Ted vdG circulated draft Program Charter to committee members. A brief overview of program provided to committee. Current status is that the first window for applications will be June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Nutrient Management Committee**

Ron Bertrand provided a status on the committee. Discussed issue of the long term viability of the animal industry in the Fraser Valley - on a limited land base with the increasing manure production. Committee convened a workshop (February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004) of committee members which was facilitated by Bruce McTavish to help develop a report on manure management policy options.

**Action** - Report will be presented to the PC committee at the next meeting

### **Agriculture Environment Initiative**

Brian Baehr submitted a report on the AEI. A total of \$6.34 million out of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed. A total of \$1.845 million out of the initial \$3 million allocated for wildlife has been expended.

### **Wildlife Compensation Strategy**

Brian Baehr provided an overview of wildlife committee status. AAFC has come up with additional funds for wildlife compensation (\$3 million) allowing an extension or expansion of projects. Transition funding is also available from the Business Risk Management envelope. This funding will accommodate new projects in other parts of the province. Even with additional funds the time frame for wildlife compensation initiatives will only be extended to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. Pilot projects are Delta wildlife control, East Kootenay forage loss and BC Cattleman's wildlife predator control program. While they are pilot projects, there is a need to carry these programs on for the long term.

**Action** - Committee is to look at viable long term options.

### **BC Agriculture Wildlife Committee**

Ken Nickel provided an update of the BC Agriculture Wildlife Committee. Need to find a representative from the Peace River.

**Action:** Committee will present work plan to PC at next meeting.

### **Habitat Stewards**

The \$90,000 bridge funding for Habitat Stewards have been spent. BCCA has some funding remaining but the other two steward positions have finished. The AEI has funded a position for the Cariboo that is doing similar type of work and will also support the EFP program. Four of the Habitat Stewards have become EFP planning advisors. The Partnership Committee felt that the bridge funding had accomplished the task of transitioning the stewards to EFP support.

*Lunch Time Presentation – Risk Management Framework – Bonnie Antcliffe DFO*  
Copy of presentation to be circulated to committee members

### **Water Management**

- Drinking Water – Kersteen Johnston reported on the activities under way since government announced it's Drinking Water Action Plan and brought into force the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Drinking Water Regulations. ADM's committee on drinking water to continue meeting on a quarterly basis. Directors Committee will review the day to day work of the drinking water action plan. Drinking water officers (DWO) are being hired to work for the health authorities. Suggestion that DWO's meet with EFP Coordinators as DWO's may be a good resource to the EFP program. The issue of small water systems is currently under going a consultation process. Recommendations are to be made to government that will hopefully lead to a more flexible regulatory framework for small systems.
- Drinking Water Assessment – Assessment tools are being prepared for use by water suppliers and DWO. There are different level of tools being developed, depending on the size of the water supplier and associated risk. The EFP has

some questions that direct producers to the drinking water assessment process if required.

- Drought Task Force – Valerie Cameron provided an overview of provincial drought management action plan. Short term and medium term initiatives are to assess immediate risk, develop emergency response, and develop a broader provincial drought management plan. Longer term items include review of water policy and use as well as concerns about population growth and the increasing demand for water. The PC council will be consulted in the event of any changes to water allocation policy.
- The provincial drought management plan is being drafted. The plan focus is to sensitize British Columbians to water use, classify droughts, communicate information, examine water priority uses and develop demand management strategies.
- Valerie gave an update of the current drought situation. Based on snow survey information to date, unless there is significant precipitation over the next few months, some areas of the province are likely to experience drought again this year. Areas with lowest snowpacks are the North and the Columbia-Kootenay regions.
- Living Rivers Strategy – Valerie Cameron provided brief overview of strategy – no new legislation as yet – PC will be consulted when strategy is developed.
- Groundwater – Mike Wei reported on WLAP's groundwater Phase 1 regulation development. The Ministry is planning on Phase 1 of Groundwater Protection - proper drilling of wells, construction standards, certification of well drillers - to be enacted in the near future. If so, the effective date for the regulation would be September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 for the registration of qualified well drillers and pump installers. Well standards will not come into effect until a year after. There will be a full year of transition for outreach/training. Mike also extended an offer to the partnership committee to explore opportunities to do outreach with the Agricultural Sector. Work with the Ground Water Advisory Board has commenced for Phase 2. Phase 2 will deal with pump installation, flow testing, water analyses and submission of well records. Phase 3, will cover area wide groundwater protection, groundwater management plans, drilling authorization in designated areas.
- Water Allocation – Randy Cairns reported on Land and Water BC. Interministry memorandum of understanding is being developed with various agencies to coordinate activities. Water licensing is being fast tracked to a 140 day turn around time.  
Statutory changes to Water Act were made last October that allowed for a stock watering regulation to be developed.

**Action:** Land and Water BC to set up a meeting with BCCA and MAFF in April to identify gaps and initiate process for a regulation with respect to stock watering.

### **Funding Partners**

Ed Woo provided direction on the upcoming funding partner committee meeting of March 25th. Will report back at next PC meeting.

## **Climate Change**

Lee Thiessen provided a provincial update on climate change. The draft climate change action plan has identified 42 efforts. Most are already a part of agency work plans. Agriculture actions are to meet a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target already included in the Agriculture Policy Framework and to support the work of the EFP. Discussion on Canada's role regarding climate change ensued.

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

- Fraser River Gravel Removal – Presentation by Fraser Basin Council
- Air Emissions - Presentation by GVRD
- Identified Wildlife Management Strategies
- Species at Risk – What is the role of Agriculture Producer organizations with respect to Species at Risk?

**Action Species at Risk**: WLAP to lead discussion of provincial initiatives at next meeting. Suggested persons are Bruce Morgan and Stuart Guy from WALP – Sylvia Von Schuckman to contact them. George Derksen to contact. Rick McKelvey with CWS to about leading discussion with respect to Federal side. How the provincial and federal initiatives are to be coordinated needs to be discussed. EC, DFO and WLAP to coordinate.

**Next meeting:** June 9<sup>th</sup> Kamloops. David Borth to find venue.