

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 28 held on March 9th, 2006 in Victoria

Attendees	Affiliation
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ed Woo	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Bonnie Antcliff	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Laura Maclean	Environment Canada
Gevan Mattu	Environment Canada
Lisa Walls	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
Henry Wiens	BC Horticultural Association (BCAC)
Jennifer Dyson	BCAC Berry/ Vegetable Representative
Rob Nataros	BC Landscape and Nursery Association
Lorne Hunter	BC Milk Producers
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Denise MacDonald	BC Fruit Growers Association
Irmi Critcher	BC Grain Producers Association
Janet Demarcke	UBCM
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Jim Mattison	Ministry of Environment
Randy Cairns	Ministry of Environment
Greg Jones	Ministry of Environment
Mike Badry	Ministry of Environment
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Jennifer Edwards	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
Philip Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Kathleen Gibson	BC Food Processors Association
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Harvey Sasaki	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Terry Dever	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The meeting was chaired by – Jim Mattison - MOE

Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik - MAL

Minutes

Minutes of meeting 27 held on November 2nd, 2005 in November in Abbotsford – adopted. Final minutes will be posted on MAL website.

Partnership Committee Administrative Items

Membership – agencies to confirm with Ted vdG who the executive member assigned to the Partnership Committee is for their agency by the end of March.

Committee confirmed that minutes be posted on the MAL website but clearly be marked as draft until approved by the PC meeting at the next meeting.

Newsletter – to be done as sufficient stories are available. Jennifer Edwards will coordinate newsletter. Draft will be forwarded to TvdG and circulated to agencies for review prior distribution. Newsletter will be circulated electronically.

UBC Chair on Agriculture Sustainability – Glen Lucas provided an update: A chair on agriculture sustainability is still planned, possibly for UBC – O but it still has a little way to go to complete the endowment.

Meat Enhancement Strategy

Kathleen Gibson provided an update on the meat enhancement strategy. The strategy has been developed by the BC Food Processors Association. As of September 2006 all slaughter facilities of animals that produce meat for human consumption must have a federal or provincial license. Slaughter facilities must also be inspected. Farmers that slaughter their own livestock for personal consumption are exempted from the regulation. Regulation affects livestock producers, abattoir operators, meat processors such as butcher shops and purchasers and consumers of produced meat.

Work is still ongoing in MOE with the definition of slaughterhouses and how the code of practice will apply to slaughterhouses in BC.

Ecological Goods and Services Policy

Ken Nickel gave a presentation on the Ecological Goods and Services Policy. (Benefits that society obtains from natural capital and providing funding to those that provide the benefits) A national symposium was held in Winnipeg in February. There has to be a clear understanding between what are environmental targets and objectives and what is farm income support.

The first pilot has been approved for a small rural community in Manitoba. The pilot will complete research and fill gaps. The pilot will be used to support policy development, test and demonstrate approaches to incorporating EG&S concepts into agri-environmental policy and engage stakeholders to build consensus on what can be accomplished.

BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee

Mike Badry provided an update on the Agriculture and Wildlife Committee. \$1 million has been allocated to compensation programs from MAL this year. The predator loss and compensation program administered by the BC Cattleman's Association has increased

claims this year. Delta Forage Compensation Program has seen an increase in damage to perennial forage fields and claims may exceed \$200,000. A report from the committee is attached to the minutes.

Wildlife Problems in the Peace River – Irmi Critcher provided a presentation on the wildlife problems being experienced by producers in the Peace River. Suggested solutions to deal with the problem are: wildlife population control; offer spot loss compensation program for farmers; assistance with the cost of cleaning grain; and compensation for crops which need to be destroyed because of severe contamination by wildlife.

Action:

- Provincial Wildlife Committee to follow up with agencies to check on changing to hunting regulations and other initiatives to help resolve Peace River issues. Mike Badry to bring forward to the committee and report back to the next PC meeting.
- Irmi to provide information to Jennifer for inclusion in the newsletter

Environmental Program Modernization Operational Statements

Bonnie Antcliffe (DFO) gave a presentation to the committee on this initiative. The plan is to make Habitat Management Program provide:

- Effective programs in conservation and protection of fish habitat
- Transparent, effective and predictable deliver of services
- Integrate the program with the interests and priorities of governments and partners

The Risk Management Framework has two activities; pathways of effects which identify water and land based activities that effect fish habitat; and a risk matrix that addresses whether the effects are high, medium or low risk and sensitivity. Best Management Practices can be used to break the pathway of effects. Where an effect cannot be avoided or mitigated the risk matrix is used to determine whether to redesign, relocate or to do a combination of both.

Low risks can be managed using operational statements
Medium risks can be managed by regulations or CEAA.
High risks will be managed using authorizations

Operational statements is a tool for streamlining low risk referrals. They are routine activities with predictable impacts that can be carried out under specific conditions and measures. They are similar to “letters of advice”. They will clarify DFO’s position to stakeholders and partners. There are a number of statements that have been developed that are available on the website.

Habitat and Farmland Committee

Committee status and update provided by John Patterson on the committee’s March 2nd meeting. A report from the committee is attached to the minutes.

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 task group has met with representatives from UBCM to determine the steps that are required to obtain UBCM endorsement. A backgrounder is being prepared that will be sent with the building setback standards document to UBCM partners. It will take about a month to obtain UBCM endorsement once the backgrounder has been prepared.
- A tour of greenhouse facilities is being organized for DFO and MOE staff to help resolve the some of the greenhouse issues.

Vegetation Management Guidelines – Ted vdG provided an update on the current status of the project. A consultant has been retained to conduct 16 RAR assessments to determine the zones of sensitivity and measures for SPEAs in natural, channelized and ephemeral streams in vegetated agricultural settings. Recommendations on the framework needed to conduct a province-wide survey in 2006-07 will be developed. Recommendations regarding the development of BMP's for vegetation removal and management along watercourses in agricultural areas will also be developed.

Biodiversity Workshop Report

Sylvia Von Schuckmann circulated a copy of the report that was prepared as a follow up to the workshops that were held in the fall of 2005.

Lunch

Minister of Environment, Barry Penner provided a brief update on some of the initiatives that MOE is working on. He indicated that the province will be initiating a process to develop a provincial water strategy.

SARA Consultation

Stewart Guy provided an update on the current status of SARA from a British Columbia perspective. BC wants to build a made in BC approach to SARA. There is a Canada /BC agreement that provides overall direction. Consultation with the agriculture industry will occur later this year once the policy work has been completed.

Consultation with BCAC will occur prior to bringing the regulation on the Wildlife Amendment Act into force.

Nutrient Management Committee

Nutrient Management report is attached to the minutes.

The Agriculture Environment Initiative Management Committee is exploring an overall agriculture waste management strategy for the province beginning with the Lower Mainland.

Action: Allen James and Ken Nickel to scope the issue with industry leaders and determine a possible course of action. They will report back to the next Partnership Committee meeting in June.

National Agri-Environment Standards Initiative

Laura Maclean provided a presentation on the initiative. The project is part of the Environmental Chapter of the Agriculture Policy Framework. It will promote a consistent national approach to achieving common environmental outcomes and support the move to environmental farm planning and certification. An additional goal is to increase Canadian and International confidence that food from Canada is produced in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Priority standards include:

Air – particulate matter, ammonia and odour

Biodiversity – habitat conservation – wetlands, riparian areas and connective corridors

Pesticides – top priority are in air, water and commodity based pesticides

Water – nutrients, sediments, pathogens and instream flow

Water Management

- *Ministry of Environment Water Stewardship Division* - Jim Mattison provided an overview of the Water Stewardship Division. The province has made a commitment to develop a provincial water strategy. There are three main objectives: ensure human health and safety, need to ensure watersheds are properly functioning, to establish sustainable use of water by various sectors. Supporting goals is a well educated public on the water resource in British Columbia and to improve the science around water management and licencing.
- *Agriculture Water Strategy* - Habitat and Farmland Management Committee does not have the complete technical representation required to address water management. The suggestion is to establish a task group that will organize an Agriculture Water Forum that will provide background and direction on an agriculture water strategy for the province.

Environment Canada report on Abbotsford Aquifer and Nitrate Monitoring

Gevan Mattu presented a report on monitoring work that has been done in the Abbotsford aquifer. Two new studies are showing that nitrate levels in the Abbotsford aquifer are not improving. However since the poultry industry and other activities over the aquifer have increased significantly over the past few years the agriculture industry feels that the BMP's that have been implemented are effective. EC concern is that water quality has not improved. The reports will be released once approved by agencies.

Okanagan Basin Water Project

Ted vdG provided an update on the status of the Okanagan Basin project.

Issues Constraining Sustainable Irrigation in Canada

Jennifer Edwards provided an update on the workshops that were held in Summerland and Kamloops in early March on the development of a National Irrigation Strategy.

Action: The final report to be circulated to Partnership Committee. Terry Dash to forward report to TvdG.

Updates

Agri-Food Policy Framework

EFP National Farm Stewardship Program – an update is attached to the minutes

AEI Update – an update is attached to the minutes

NWSEP – update attached to the minutes

Agenda Items for future meetings:

- GVRD Presentation on Air Emissions and Alternate Fuels for Greenhouse Industry – target for presentation at November meeting.
- Climate Change – WLAP
- Sustainable Poultry Group – Kevin Chipperfield
- Integrated Land Management Bureau – Mike Lambert
- Specified Risk Materials – Jack Bryden
- Avian Influenza Crisis Management – Jack Bryden
- SARA – Alien Species – Ted Downe
- Waterbucket - TvdG

Next meeting: June 15th – Kelowna

BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee
Report to the Partnership Committee
March 9th, 2005

1. Committee met Feb 27th in Delta. Along with the meeting, a field tour was held of the areas affected by waterfowl as well as growth and development.
2. Compensation and Mitigation Programs: With only \$1 million allocated to compensation programs, some compensation to producers may have to be pro-rated for the funds available this year.
3. Predator Loss and Compensation Program (Administered by BC Cattlemen's Association) has experienced an increase in claims this past year. Claims have increased from 9 to 32. Reason is unclear at this time.
4. Delta Forage Compensation Program: There has been a high level of damage to perennial forage fields and claims may exceed the \$200,000 initially allocated for compensation.
5. East Kootenay Compensation Project: has been extended for one year at a 40% level coverage of losses.
6. Comox Valley Compensation Program initiated. Ducks Unlimited has provided a winter cover crop program to complement compensation.
7. New Compensation Programs are approved for the Cariboo area to cover forage losses.
8. East Kootenay Prevention Program: construction must be completed by June 30, 2006. Further fencing projects could be eligible under the EFP process.
9. Enfranchisement Program offers some hope for new options for producers to offset losses through the private land incentives. Jeff Morgan has three proposed pilots: East Kootenays, Peace River and Kamloops Indian Band.
10. Excreta in grains is a major issue for farmers in the Peace River. Farmers are facing increased costs for cleaning and, in some cases, elevators are refusing to take crops. MoE is to conduct a survey to determine amount of damage occurring.
11. Peace River ungulate numbers are a concern to producers. Meetings have been held with MoE staff to increase the hunting pressure and reduce ungulate numbers.
12. Bear/Orchard Conflicts: Meeting of affected producers held in Fraser Valley to explore issue. Little information on actual losses. Proposal submitted to AEI to do literature search on control efforts in other areas and to quantify impact through a survey.
13. Concerns were expressed about the loss of ALR lands in Delta for port expansion and the Gateway project. These developments will have impacts on both agriculture and waterfowl.
14. Next AWAC meeting tentatively scheduled for June 12 – 16. likely in Kamloops

Prepared by:
Wray McDonnell
Co-chair AWAC
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Nutrient Management Committee Report

- Manure spreading advisories continue to be produced. Some producers claim they are unaware of the advisories and the Committee might consider alternative ways to get the message out. Orlando produced a graph indicating the Tsum 200 is being reached about two weeks earlier now (approx Feb 10) than 20 years ago. A longer growing season has implications for nutrient use.
- Fraser Valley Soil Survey Project - Project is progressing well. Producer interviews almost finished. New analysis machine purchased by Ag Can in Agassiz - will allow much quicker analysis. Early phosphorus results show high levels, potassium is medium to low. The NPK analysis of residual fall soil samples will be complete by the end of March 2006.
- Much interest in anaerobic digesters and innovative composting projects. Innovative ways of dealing with nutrients might require changes to regulations to allow for increased flexibility when moving ag wastes to central facilities and when selling finished products.
- 2nd annual custom manure applicators seminar/meeting was held on Jan 10, 2006. Approx. 30 people attended for a discussion of regulatory framework, best practices, MoE's compliance assessment results etc.
- Ministry of Environment is new chair for this year.
- New workplan is being established. Next meeting sometime in May 2006.

**Update for the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the
Environment
March 9, 2006 Victoria
By the Habitat and Farmland Committee**

Committee members from MOE, MAL, DFO, EC, met March 2, 2006 in Vancouver (regrets from UBCM and BCAC).

Highlights:

1. **Riparian Management MAL Factsheets** – (MAL) Dave Trotter is incorporating comments submitted Dec/Jan from MOE, MAL, DFO, and EC and will send the revised Final factsheets to the H and F Committee members for a final perusal this Spring.
2. **Riparian Management “Supplemental”** – MAL (Dave Trotter), with funding assistance, will incorporate the remaining riparian information from the original EFP Riparian Self-Management Guide and any additional factsheets into an Appendix for the current EFP Riparian Management Field Workbook. The Working Group will examine how to incorporate information on wetlands from the Cows and Fish Riparian Health Assessment for Lakes, Sloughs, and Wetlands Field Workbook. Dave Trotter will provide members with a draft and will discuss packaging with the Committee.
3. **Riparian Management/Vegetation removal** (*Ted will be providing an update on this item later today*). We decided to ask the Contractor, Gordon Mackinnon to provide a draft report to the H & F Committee members prior to the June 2 meeting.
4. **Bio-diversity Workshop Report** –
 - a. **Workshop held October 29, 2005 in Kamloops.** Well attend, with representation from the EFP Planning Advisors, NGOs, BCAC, Farmers, and agency reps.
 - b. **Copies of the Draft Bio-Diversity Report** are available today, with a final report at the end of March. Copies will be printed.
 - c. **The Steering Committee (representatives from BCAC, MAL, EC, CWS, MOE, DFO and DUC)** are meeting March 20 to discuss the recommendations and next steps resulting from the workshop.
5. **Water Management Issues** – we concluded that the overall Water Management Policy co-ordination was too big an undertaking for the Committee alone (given the current membership and the scope and number of activities underway across BC). We decided to present the following option to address Agriculture Water Management to the PC Meeting March 9 (presented during the H & F update):
 - a. **We proposed a Task Group to organize a Agriculture Water Forum** with Agri-Food Canada, MAL, BCAC, MOE, EC, and DFO represented.
 - b. **The purpose** of the Forum will be to present and examine agriculture water policy (MAL, BCAC) issues and consider solutions. Will also investigate how to tie in with Provincial Water Policy.
 - c. **The Task Group** will report/work under the Habitat and Farmland Committee.
 - d. **At the PC meeting**, we will invite other members to be involved.
6. **Building Setbacks for new Agricultural Buildings**
 - a. The working group met February 22, with Jared Wright, Policy Analyst with the UBCM, to outline the status and outstanding issues, and sought advice on next steps for presenting to the UBCM Environmental Committee.
 - b. At H & F Meeting March 2, we identified range of products we will prepare, including the 1. factsheet, 2. incorporate information into the Bylaw Guide, 3. Incorporate information into the EFP Reference Guide, and 4. Awareness/outreach information for landowners.
 - c. Next Steps: Draft products and information documents and continue work on outstanding items for a Backgrounder to UBCM:

1. UBCM is interested in having more details on the Setbacks and the implementation process. The Working Group is preparing a backgrounder to include:
2. Municipal/Provincial implementation tools (Sylvia, with help from David Urban)
3. Outline the Roles and Responsibilities (Group development – sit down in a room, each Gov. Level reps) Include develop methodology, implementation, awareness/outreach, stewardship, classification, monitoring and evaluation, enforcement)
4. Provide a detailed explanation of the Methodology for practitioners, local governments, and landowners, and the variance process and rules.
6. Professional Assessments – who/how/under what circumstances
7. Greenhouse piece – Some more information on scope of activities/government regulations needed. Ted will setup a group tour of three sites.
8. Rationale – RAR scope and approach versus Agriculture setbacks approach (DFO draft and work to refine with MOE).
9. David Urban, FVRD offered to draft up some “typical questions” local government might have that we can respond to.
10. Monitoring and evaluation of the Setbacks.

7. Next Habitat and Farmland Committee meeting will be held around June 2 in Chilliwack, hosted and chaired by the UBCM member from FVRD, Hugh Sloan.

Update Report

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 Versteeg	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 December 31, 2005

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

- Communication events 267
- Workshops 433
- Producer participants 2480
- Statements of Completion 392

Incentive Funding Activities to December 31, 2005

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

- Applications reviewed 468
- Applications approved 344
- Program funds to producers (committed and expended) \$2.02 M
- Total project value (approximate) \$6.5 M

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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February 25, 2006

**Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program
Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the
Environment
March 9, 2006**

Program Summary:

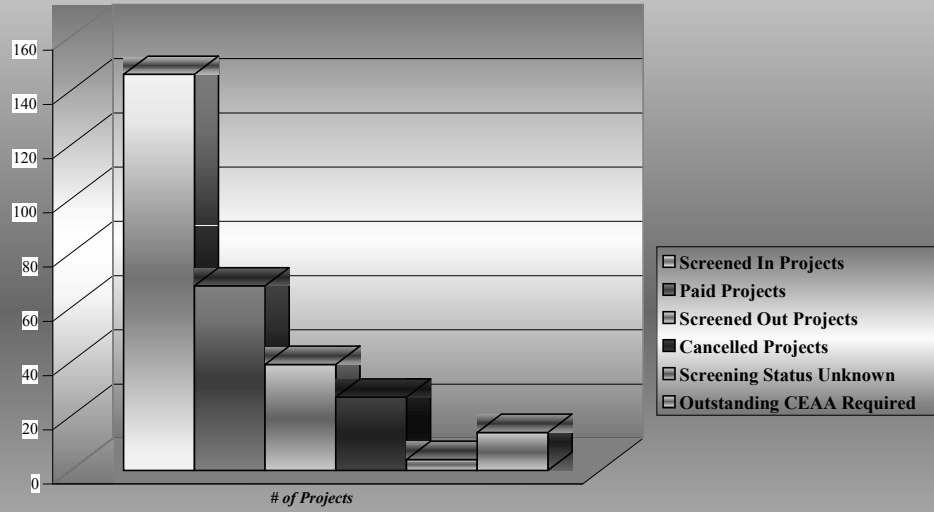
- The objective of the Program is to provide financial and technical support for the planning and development of sustainable water supplies for agriculture.
- The Program has three components:
 - Tier 1 – On-farm water infrastructure projects such as wells, dugouts and small dams. Irrigation equipment 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.
- Program funding available for projects is \$1,900,000; \$2,500,000; \$1,100,000 for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively. 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.

Program Activity Highlights:

- Since the launch of the Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program in May, 2004 there have been eight application intake deadlines, the most recent being January 1, 2006. The next two application deadlines are April 1 and June 1.
- To the January 1, 2006 application date the Program Working Group (PWG) has reviewed 353 Tier 1, 21 Tier 2 and 49 Tier 3 projects. 221 Tier 1 projects have been approved for a total Tier 1 funding commitment of \$806,015. 13 Tier 2 projects have been approved for a total Tier 2 funding commitment of \$1,379,159 and 26 Tier 3 projects have been approved for a total funding commitment of \$1,458,656.
- There is continued steady interest in all three categories of projects. However, there is still significant funding remaining for on-farm and multi-user group infrastructure projects. The Program Working Group has re-allocated some Tier 2 funds to Tier 3 to meet the extra demand for Tier 3 type projects. With only two years remaining in the Program, additional effort is being made to promote the Program. Public notices about the Program have recently been put in local print media across the province, and a Program brochure has been printed and will be made available to organizations who wish to help promote it. Also, “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
February 24, 2006

2005 CBCWSEP Tier 1 (as of February 22, 2006)



Screened In Projects	146
Paid Projects	68
Screened Out Projects	39
Cancelled Projects	27
Screening Status Unknown	4
Outstanding CEAA Required	14

Agriculture Environment Initiatives Update

Operations Update:

- The Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Program for Agriculture is underway with collections occurring in the Fraser Valley in late February early March. The BCAC initiated program supported with AEPI funds has drawn contributions and operational support from MOE, MAL, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada, Health Canada and the plant industry organization Crop Life Canada. Collections are planned for the Okanagan in the fall as well as in other areas as funds permit.
- Progress has been slow but sure for the wildlife stewardship incentives pilot projects being funded jointly by Ministry of Environment and AEI. A conditional grant agreement is in place for the East Kootenay and in process of completion with the Peace River region. A contribution agreement between BCAC and MOE is in place to flow the funds through the AEI to the project delivery groups. These projects are closely related to the concept of rewarding producers for environmental goods and services provided that is being developed nationally.
- Compliance reviews by a professional agrologist experienced in financial management are carried out on a number of AEI projects each year. This process serves to ensure that project funds are being expended in an appropriate manner as well as assisting groups in meeting reporting requirements. To the end of 2005, 20 projects had been reviewed.

Financial Update:

- To date 90 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 151 submitted and 48 projects completed.
- Financial status to December 31, 2005
 - \$10.6 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. \$7.6 million has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
 - \$598,000 of \$990,000 of AESI funds has been committed. \$580,000 has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
 - The ratio of AEI program funds to applicant and other sources of funds for completed projects is 0.59 (\$2.3 million program funds to \$3.9 industry and partners)
 - A further \$155,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.
 - \$3.14 million estimated expenditures to date for the wildlife compensation projects
- BMP Supplementation Funds
 - To December 31, 2005 none of the \$1,000,000 committed for new and supplemented of BMP's had been expended.