

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 27 held on November 2nd, 2005 in Abbotsford

Attendees	Affiliation
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ed Woo	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
George Derksen	Environment Canada
Laura Maclean	Environment Canada
Allen James	BC Poultry Association (BCAC)
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC (BCAC)
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Henry Wiens	BC Horticultural Association (BCAC)
Gord Shandler	BC Fruit Growers Association
Lorne Hunter	BC Milk Producers
Steve Thomson	BC Agriculture Council
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council (AEI)
Linda Allison	BC Cattleman's Association (BCAC)
Mary Margaret Gaye	BC Greenhouse Growers Association
Marcel Gashof	BC Pork Producers Association
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Janet Demarcke	UBCM
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Jack Bryden	Ministry of Environment
Lynn Bailey	Ministry of Environment
Greg Jones	Ministry of Environment
Mike Younie	Ministry of Environment
Randy Cairns	Ministry of Environment
Siri Bertelsen	Fraser Valley Regional District
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Walter Goerzen	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Terry Dash	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
Bill Harron	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
John Berry	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Terry Dever	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Orlando Schmidt	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Gustav Rogstrand	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Stephanie Tam	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The meeting was chaired by – Terry Dever - MAL

Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik - MAL

Minutes

Minutes of meeting 26 held on June 15th, 2005 in Vernon – adopted. Minutes are posted on MAFF website.

Partnership Committee Administrative Items

Membership – agencies to confirm with Ted vdG the executive member that is responsible for the Partnership Committee.

Lorne Hunter is confirmed as a Dairy Industry representative for BCAC to the PC

Distribution list – committee members to contact Ted vdG if they are currently not on the distribution list for the PC briefing package.

Terry Dever provided an update on the new structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Lynn Bailey provided a presentation on the new Ministry of Environment reorganization.

Information and Outreach – discussion led to the following comments:

- develop a short newsletter on PC hilites
- invite key staff to the PC subcommittees or PC meetings

Action – Terry Dash has offered assistance from AAFC – minutes from the last few meetings will be forwarded to AAFC and a draft newsletter developed. The draft will be circulated to partnering agencies for comments and presented at the next PC meeting in Victoria. Decision to be made on the circulation of the newsletter at that time.

UBC Chair – A chair on Agriculture Sustainability was to be developed at UBC. Glen Lucas to contact UBC, determine the status of chair position and inform Ted vdG to include in the minutes.

Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative

Ken Nickel updated the committee on the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative. Funding is to be provided to local government to develop plans and facilities to deal with mass mortality disposal. Revised Health of Animals Regulations are expected before the end of this year. Regulations will come into effect 3 –12 months later.

The Federal Government has announced an \$80 million budget for provinces to assist in livestock tissue management. BC has requested that Federal dollars support the current initiative underway in BC.

Ecological Goods and Services Policy

Ken Nickel gave a presentation on the Ecological Goods and Services Policy. There is interest in developing a national policy framework which has four pillars:

- Setting clear environmental targets
- Choosing the right set of policy instruments
- Developing adequate monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- Engaging agriculture producers and citizens

Pilots with real experience 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.

A national symposium on EG&S will be held in Winnipeg, Feb 15-16, 2006 to inform agri-environmental policy development. Attendance will be by invitation only. The next steps are research into policy tool options, experiences from elsewhere and attitudes towards EG&S, consultation with stakeholders and the launch of research pilots.

Avian Flu

Terry Dever provided a brief update on testing of ducks in the Merritt area. No confirmation on test results are expected for the next 10 days. The livestock waste tissue initiative is doing some work that can be used to develop a mass mortality plan for British Columbia. A critical step is to implement bio-security plan and procedures on the farm. Issue to be brought forward at a future PC meeting.

Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure – Lynn Bailey provided an update on the policy. Policy provides Ministry's best business practices and ensures compliance with the Ministry's regulatory requirements. The objective is to provide a consistent and structured approach to assessment of and response to non compliance. Alternative means to regulatory enforcement to be tried whenever possible.

Waste Discharge Regulation – Slaughterhouse Definition

Jack Bryden provided background information. If the definition of slaughterhouses can be changed to language similar to what is being used in Alberta it would allow for a code of practice to be developed that can apply to more slaughterhouses in BC. MOE is requesting input from the agriculture industry. Approximately 5 to 10 processors would be affected.

SARA Consultation

Greg Jones provided an update on the current status of SARA in British Columbia. The Province of BC will use existing statutes and not develop its own legislation. Consultation with various industry sectors will occur once the policy work has been completed. Industry sectors include forestry, mining, gas, agriculture, urban development and others as this legislation will affect the entire province. No time frame has been given to when the policy will be completed.

Air Quality

Hugh Sloan provided a written report on the Agriculture Industry Emission Reduction Initiative. Siri Bertlesen provided a short update on the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Airshed committee.

Pacific Fisheries Resource Council Report

Gordon Ennis provided a brief overview of the report. Marvin Roseneau delivered a power point presentation. Committee expressed concern on how the tone of the report painted agriculture as a major problem but did not provide comment on urbanization, and

other development impacts to fishery resources. The view of the agriculture community is that agricultural activities support the fish resources better than urban or commercial developments do.

Habitat and Farmland Committee

Committee status and update provided by Steve Thomson on the committee's November 1st meeting.

Key issues discussed:

Building Setbacks from Watercourses for Agricultural Buildings – Ted vdg provided a plan for completing the building setback standards. A draft of the standards was circulated to the committee. The standards have been developed to compliment the Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) developed by MOE and DFO.

- PC members to provide comment to the task group in the next ten days on the draft circulated
- The task group will meet to finalize the building setback document
- Agencies to sign off on the building setback standards prior to meeting with UBCM. DFO will prepare a briefing to their executive and get sign off by the end of November.
- A meeting with the UBCM Environmental Committee will be held as part of the obligation by MOE to consult with UBCM on RAR issues.
- A meeting of the task group will be held to discuss the presentation to UBCM prior to the UBCM meeting
- MAL staff will then initiate the process for developing a Ministers standard for agricultural building setbacks

Vegetation Removal Guidelines – Ted vdG provided an update on the first phase of the assessment process. An RFP has been developed and forwarded to agencies for final comment. The RFP will be sent out in the next month to selected consultants to obtain qualified proposals for this project. The contract will require 16 sites to be assessed throughout the province. Regional MAL, DFO and MOE staff will be consulted in the selection of the sites.

Biodiversity Workshop

Sylvia Von Schuckmann updated the committee on the Biodiversity Workshop that was held in Kamloops on October 29th. The workshop was very successful and had to turn away potential attendees.

Environmental Farm Planning Supplemental Guides

All of the supplemental guides for the EFP program have now been printed and are available from the BCAC. In addition the Irrigation Management Guide has been printed and is available from the Irrigation Industry Association of BC.

Environmental Process Modernization Plan

John Patterson circulated the operational statements that have been developed as part of the plan. These operational statements have been developed nationally with each region adding specific topics as necessary. The Risk Management Framework model that is being developed by DFO will add additional operational statements for agricultural activities.

Nutrient Management Committee

Farmland Soil Survey – Orlando Schmidt provided a powerpoint presentation on the soil survey that is being done in the Fraser Valley. A handout is attached to the minutes.

Nutrient Management Report

Action: MAL to lead and facilitate the development of a policy position. However the soil survey should be completed and results obtained prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

Manure Application Compliance Report

Mike Younie reported to the committee on manure application compliance in the Fraser Valley. A total of 40 occurrences of spreading outside the approved windows were observed. These results show that industry compliance is approximately 87%. Approximately 90% are using setbacks and 90% are applying to grasslands.

BC Agriculture Wildlife Committee

Brian Baehr represented the Wildlife Committee and informed the PC on forest ingrowth impacts. Forest encroachment on grazing areas has been an issue for 10 years. The AEI as successfully addresses some agricultural issues since 2001 but has limited resources. Coordination of resources is not evident and there has been difficulty in obtaining forestry and other agency support.

Water Management

Ministry of Environment Water Management Update –

Randy Cairns represented MOE's Water Stewardship Division and outlined the revised structure of water management in MOE and the mandate it has been given. These include:

- Building a water stewardship program for the 21st century.
- Renew BC's Water Management Model
- Establish a Water for BC strategic framework – these goals include protection of public health and safety, healthy watersheds and ecosystems.

Groundwater

Randy Cairns updated the committee on the new groundwater regulations that came into force on November 1st, 2005. Additional standards on well construction, pump installation and reporting are now in force.

BCAC Water Policy

The BCAC Water Policy was circulated to the committee. Hans Buchler provided comments on the policy to the committee.

Agriculture Water Strategy - A draft Agriculture Water Strategy has been developed and circulated to MAL staff, BCAC and agencies for comment. The agriculture strategy will be incorporated into the provincial strategy. An agriculture and water forum with agencies is being planned sometime in the next half year to provide additional input into the water strategy.

Okanagan Basin Water Project

Ted vdG provided an overview of the Okanagan Basin project. A one page info sheet was circulated as part of the agenda package. The project is a partnership between MAL, PARC, NAES and the BCAC.

Action: Habitat and Farmland Committee to discuss how water management issues are to be addressed and report back to the Partnership Committee at the next meeting.

National Agri-Environmental Service

Bill Harron provided the committee with a brief overview of the NAES objectives in BC. Specific actions and details on the program will be provided at a later meeting.

Terry Dash provided details on current staffing in BC. The division provides support to the EFP and NWSEP programs in British Columbia. Support is also given to the Groundwater Association in BC, the soils nutrient project, mountain pine beetle and Okanagan Water Management Project.

Pesticide Residue Project

John Pasternak delivered a report on Surveillance of Current-use Pesticides in Waters for the Lower Mainland in BC. DFO, Pest Management Regulatory Agency and MOE are partners in the study. A total of 80 current use pesticides were detected in receiving waters. Sampling has been extended to the Okanagan Valley and will also be done in the Peace River and on Vancouver Island in the future pending funding.

This project is part of a larger Canada wide study and is in response to a significant data gap on pesticide residues in the aquatic environment. The project will also provide data to Environment Canada's National Agri-environmental Standards Initiative.

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:

- National Agri-Environmental Standards Initiative – Laura Maclean
- 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
- Amendments to Federal Fertilizer Act - CFIA
- Energy and Mines - Coal Bed Methane
- Integrated Land Management Bureau – Mike Lambert

Next meeting: March 9th – Victoria – MOE to coordinate

Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study 2005 Update

Sampling Phases Completed on October 31, 2005

A collaborative research project was established to assess soil nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium status in the Fraser Valley in 2005. The study will generate a soil nutrient database that can be used in the future to assess the success of the Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program.

The project, funded principally by **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**, under the **Agriculture Policy Framework** and the **PFRA**, and **Environment Canada**, under the **Georgia Basin Action Plan**, is being administered by the **British Columbia Agriculture Council**. Additional financial and in-kind support has been provided by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the BC Ministry of Environment, the University of British Columbia, and the University College of the Fraser Valley.

Special recognition needs to be made to all the producers in the Fraser Valley who have volunteered to have their fields sampled. Two key principles of the study are that participation is voluntary and individual results will be kept confidential. Overall, most producers who were contacted were very cooperative in providing fields for the study.

Phase One – May to August 2005

In Phase One of the project, 54 fields were selected to represent a cross-section of 9 major soil management groups identified on soil maps of the Fraser Valley (Table 1). Sampling began on May 4, 2005 and was completed on August 16, 2005. Six fields were sampled from each area with three of those being classified as intensively farmed and three as non-intensive. On each field, three soil pits approximately one cubic metre in size were excavated. Samples were collected from a minimum of three depths in each pit. In addition, a physical description of each soil was obtained, using the Canadian System of Soil Classification.

Table 1: Sampling Locations for Phase One of the 2005 Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study (6 samples collected from each location)

General Location	Soil Parent Material	Soil Management Group
1. Agassiz	Fraser River	Fairfield, Monroe, Page, Grevell
2. Chilliwack	Fraser River	Fairfield, Monroe, Page, Grevell
3. Nicomen Island / Matsqui Prairie	Fraser River	Fairfield, Monroe, Page, Grevell
4. Sumas Prairie	Lacustrine (lake deposits)	Sumas
5. West end of Sumas Prairie and North of Hatzic Lake	Local Stream deposits	Carvolth
6. Abbotsford Airport	Glacial till or outwash	Abbotsford, Bose, Columbia, Lehman, Heron, Summer
7. Abbotsford / Langley Uplands	Glacial Marine	Whatcom, Scat, Berry
8. Cloverdale / Nicomekl drainage area	Marine	Cloverdale (and shallow organic soils)
9. Delta / Westham Island	Deltaic	Delta, Benson, Crescent, Ladner

Phase Two – September and October 2005

Phase Two sampling had the objective of determining the soil nutrient status at the end of the growing season, with a particular focus on nitrogen. One hundred and seventy-two (172) fields were sampled from five census zones within the Fraser Valley (see Table 2). The fields were selected to proportionately represent the major crop production systems within each zone. Sampling was done using conventional soil probes. Triple replicate samples were collected from three depths (0-15 cm, 15-30 cm, and 30-60 cm) in each field.

Sampling began on September 21 and was completed on October 31.

Table 2: Sampling Locations and Crop Types for Phase Two of Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study

Crop Type	East Chilliwack	Abbotsford (Sumas Prairie area)	South Matsqui (south of airport)	West Matsqui (Mt. Lehman/Bradner area)	West Delta
Pasture, alfalfa, hay, and fodder crops	30	20	12	17	5
Corn	12	12	-	-	-
Potatoes	-	5	-	-	8
Raspberries	-	-	12	-	-
Blueberries	-	-	5	6	5
Vegetables	-	8	-	-	5
Nursery	5	-	-	5	-
Total = 172	47	45	29	28	23

Phase Three – Producer Surveys, Sample Processing and Analysis

In total, over 2000 individual soil samples were collected in Phases One and Two. After collection, samples were refrigerated temporarily at the Abbotsford Agriculture Centre and then delivered in batches to Agassiz where they were air-dried in a greenhouse at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre. Once dry, they are being further processed (crushed and sieved) in preparation for laboratory analysis.

The lab analysis phase is being lead by Dr. Grant Kowalenko of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Initial nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium analysis is expected to be completed by March 2006 with a preliminary report due in the spring of 2006.

Concurrent to the analysis phase, the farmers who volunteered their fields will be interviewed to obtain further management information on each field.

Parallel Studies

Dr. Tom Forge, a soil biologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is leading a study looking at the biodiversity of soil nematode populations in relation to soil nutrient status. This work builds upon previous research that suggests some aspects of nematode biodiversity can be used as indicators of soil fertility and soil health. A subset of the soil samples will be used in this study.

Dr. Merv Wetzstein, a veterinarian with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, is leading a study in which a subset of the soil samples will be analyzed for the presence of pathogens.

Where pathogens are present, the study is also assessing the pathogen organisms for anti-microbial resistance. Further analysis will be conducted to determine the presence of veterinary pharmaceutical residues.

Acknowledgements

The 2 sampling phases of this project have been a huge coordination effort. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the steering committee and all the volunteers and contractors who worked diligently to stick to the timeline targets we had set. At this point, some invoices from Phase Two are still being processed but Phase One and Two were essentially on time and on budget.

I would like to express particular appreciation to Ella Monro, a Coop student from SFU working with MAL, who recruited the volunteer farmers and coordinated the day to day sampling schedules. Her diligence and coordination ability was a key factor in the success of the sampling phases.

Submitted by:
Orlando Schmidt, PAg
Environmental Soil Specialist
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
November 2, 2005

Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Airshed Strategy

Agriculture Industry Emission Reduction Initiative

Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

October 28, 2005

Background

The GB-PS International Airshed Strategy was developed by a coordinating committee, under the US-Canada Border Air Quality Strategy, a cooperative effort to investigate barriers to reducing air pollution in transboundary air basins in North America, and builds upon previous agreements under the 1991 US-Canada Air Quality Agreement. The Coordinating Committee is made up of members from regional, provincial, state and federal government agencies, and First Nations and Tribes. Environment Canada Pacific and Yukon Region (PYR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 act as co-lead agencies, coordinating joint activities by the Committee.

The GB-PS Coordinating Committee identified three goals for ongoing transboundary co-operation and collaboration.

- Reduce the risk of adverse effects on human health and ecosystems by improving air quality.
- Increase visibility and reduce regional haze in the airshed through improvements in air quality
- Decrease the region's emissions of greenhouse gases

These goals are to be addressed within the context of each country's legal mandates, regulatory systems, and voluntary programs. This international airshed strategy recognizes, in particular, the potential of the Canadian programs for Continuous Improvement and Keeping Clean Areas Clean, and the US programs for Prevention of Significant Deterioration and reducing regional haze to help met these goals.

The strategy includes the formation of seven working groups to consider emission reduction measures for possible implementation in the two jurisdictions. The FVRD is leading the working group that is considering agriculture emission reduction options.

Discussion

The Agriculture Industry Emission Reduction Initiative working group includes, in addition to the FVRD, members from the BC Agriculture Council, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, BC Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, GVRD, the Whatcom Conservation District, US Department of Agriculture and First Nations/Tribes. It has met twice in the last few months and is scheduled to meet again in mid-November.

Considering the international nature of this working group, it's goal is to reduce emissions of the common air contaminants of concern, as well as ammonia, in the GB/PS airshed. In fact, ammonia has been given the highest priority in recognition of its role in producing secondary fine particulate, which is a component of the "white haze" often seen in the Valley.

To date, the working group has focused on gathering information regarding existing agriculture-related emission reduction practices in the cross-border area, as well as developing an understanding of the science and inventories of emissions for the agriculture sector. The intention is to take advantage of existing agricultural environmental farm programs and to introduce or raise the profile of emissions and their impact on air quality in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound airshed.

In BC, it appears that the federal/provincial Environmental Farm Planning process is an appropriate vehicle for the inclusion of air quality initiatives. The reference guide for this initiative already contains a number of air quality beneficial management practices (BMPs) and a recent comparison of these BMPs with a separate report commissioned by the FVRD and Environment Canada indicates consistent priorities for action. In an effort to implement these priorities, the working group is now focusing on ways to augment the incentives already available to the farming community to ensure that air quality measures are included in EFPs as they are developed.

On the US side of the border, there appear to be various programs for assisting farmers to address environmental issues. As for the Canadian situation, air quality issues have not received the same attention that ground and surface water pollution or soil conservation measures have received. In Washington State, programs similar to the EFP process are gaining momentum and have resulted in nutrient management plans for the dairy industry in that State.

Using these existing programs and initiatives, the working group hopes to raise the profile of air quality issues as they relate to agriculture activities. It agreed at the outset that the development of regulatory strategies is not the best option for implementing air quality actions. Rather, the use of incentive-based strategies will probably be the most effective mechanism for their implementation. It's also recognized that a number of current farming activities related to water pollution and soil quality for which environmental programs have been established will have air quality benefits, as well.

As the lead of the GB/PS Agriculture Industry Emission Reduction Initiative, the FVRD will keep the Agriculture Partnership Committee apprised of progress by the working group related to the implementation of emission reduction measures in the agriculture sector.

Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program

Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment November 2, 2005

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 seven application intake deadlines, the most recent being September 1, 2005. The next two application deadlines are January 1 and April 1.
- To the September 1, 2005 application date the Program Working Group (PWG) has reviewed 330 Tier 1, 14 Tier 2 and 46 Tier 3 projects. 220 Tier 1 projects have been approved for a total Tier 1 funding commitment of \$821,080. 11 Tier 2 projects have been approved for a total Tier 2 funding commitment of \$983,909 and 25 Tier 3 projects have been approved for a total funding commitment of \$1,397,251. See the attached table for the number of projects by type and location as of October 2005.
- There continues to be strong demand for Tier 3 type projects. The Program Working Group has re-allocated some Tier 2 funds to Tier 3. Further promotion of Tier 1 is planned for this fall.

Prepared by: Philip Bergen
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
October 24, 2005

CBCWSEP									
Number of in-progress and completed projects by type and location as of October 18, 2005									
	Project Type	Region							
		Vancouver Island	Lower Mainland	Okanagan	Thompson	Cariboo-Prince George	Peace River	Kootenays	B.C.
Tier 1	SD	22	46	19	24	7	11	4	133
	LD/EX	2				1			3
	DO	7		2	2	9	19	1	40
	OS	2	6	2	3	7	2	4	26
	ST	2						1	3
	PH		1	3	4				8
	PP		1	2		2		2	7
	Total	35	54	28	33	26	32	12	220
Tier 2	TL/SD						1	1	2
	PR			3	1	1			5
	OS								
	WC			4					4
	Total			7	1	1	1	1	11
Tier 3	WS	1	4	1	3		1		10
	WP	1		2	1			1	5
	AR/DM		1						1
	FS			1		1			2
	EI		1	5	1				7
	Total	2	6	9	5	1	1	1	25

Project Type:

SD – Small Diameter well

LD/EX – Large Diameter or Excavated well

DO – Dugout

OS – Small dams, spring development and/or pipeline, (also includes Water treatment equipment)

ST – Off-Stream Storage

PH – Pipeline connection

PP – Pasture pipeline

TL/SD – Regional tank Loading facility / water supply well

WC – Water conservation infrastructure such as installing water meters in a region.

WS – Water supply study

WP – Water supply planning

AR/DM – Research and/or demonstration project

FS – Infrastructure feasibility study

EI – Extension

AEI Update for Agriculture Environment Partnership Committee Meeting – November 2, 2005

Operations Update:

- Over the summer, the Management Committee along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, agreed to broaden the access to wildlife impact compensation programs and extend support to 2008. Starting in March the Management Committee approved a program for the Comox Valley to compensate for waterfowl impacts marking the first new geographic area to benefit from compensation funding under the Canada BC APF Business Risk Management Agreement. In September approval in principle was given for a Cariboo forage loss compensation and prevention program that could start in 2006. In October discussions began related to including wild predator loss compensation/prevention for sheep producers. The next big challenge for the wildlife component of the Agriculture Environment Initiatives is more fully engage wildlife oriented agencies and groups including Ministry of Forests in long-term mitigation of the impacts of the wildlife resource on agricultural operations.
- The transition from AEPI funded on-farm works to EFP Program related funding is into its final phase. These projects included mostly manure storage enhancement and wildlife damage prevention initiatives such as fencing of stored feed or standing crops. It also included projects related to protection of streamside habitat. The AEPI funded programs took applications up to June 30th and since then have begun wrapping up as the approved on-farm projects are completed. There are already several applications, for works such as wildlife fencing, manure storages and riparian area enhancements, in to the National Farm Stewardship Program from producers who have completed an EFP.
- As part of the transition and to recognize the priorities of BC farmers AEPI funds were committed to support of new environmental and wildlife oriented BMP categories and to increasing the \$30,000 multi-year per farm cap set in the national program by up to further \$20,000. The new BMP's supported included complimentary funding for Wildlife Damage Protection projects, new funding for Reducing Air Emissions from greenhouse heating systems and Water Management Planning.

Financial Update:

- To date 88 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 147 submitted and 40 projects completed.
- Financial status to September 30, 2005
 - \$10.8 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. \$7.7 million has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
 - \$678,000 of \$990,000 of AESI funds has been committed. \$580,000 has been advanced from IAF to meet those commitments.
 - A further \$155,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.

- \$3.65 million has been expended or is committed for wildlife compensation projects including the first three years of the three pilots. Payments are made through MAFF.

Brian Baehr
AEI Coordinator