

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 30 held on November 8th, 2006 in Chilliwack

Attendees	Affiliation
John Patterson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Laura Maclean	Environment Canada
George Derksen	Environment Canada
Gevan Mattu	Environment Canada
Allen James	BC Poultry Association (BCAC)
Rae Fawcett	Horse Council of BC (BCAC)
Lynne Wilson	Farm.com Council
Jennifer Dyson	BC Agriculture Council
Henry Wiens	BC Horticultural Association (BCAC)
Lorne Hunter	BC Milk Producers
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Denise MacDonald	BC Fruit Growers Association
Irmi Critcher	BC Grain Producers Association
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council
Janet Demarcke	UBCM
Hugh Sloan	UBCM
David Urban	UBCM
Sylvia Von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Bob Cox	Ministry of Environment
Jack Bryden	Ministry of Environment
Randy Cairns	Ministry of Environment
Pablo Benitez	Ministry of Environment
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Terry Dash	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
Philip Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
John Berry	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Harvey Sasaki	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Wray McDonnell	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Gustav Rogstrand	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Orlando Schmidt	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
John Luymes	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Pamela Kuipers	University of Calgary
Cathy Ryan	University of Calgary
Peter Andzans	City of Abbotsford
Kevin Chipperfield	Sustainable Poultry Group

The meeting was chaired by – Harvey Sasaki – MAL

Recording secretary – Ted van der Gulik - MAL

Minutes

Minutes of meeting 29 held on June 6th, 2006 in Kelowna – adopted with corrections suggested by committee. Final minutes will be posted on MAL website.

Web link to Partnership Committee Minutes and background information:

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/partners/index.htm>

Action resulting from Minutes: Abbotsford Aquifer and Nitrate Monitoring – Environment Canada, City of Abbotsford, and the University of Calgary will investigate the development of a science forum to discuss the results of the Abbotsford Aquifer studies that have been completed.

Partnership Committee Administrative Items

Partnership Business – Harvey Sasaki led a discussion on member's expectations of the Committee and how well they felt their expectations were being met. Members comments are summarized as follows:

- In general terms expectations of the members were being met.
- There is value in gaining insight and updates on the broad range of initiatives underway.
- There is a need for more effective communications to ensure dissemination of actions from the committee to broader constituencies.
- Results from the subcommittee work are valued but it takes time. Resolutions eventually come.
- The committee values the forum for communication on issues and the level of participation by the various agencies.
- An original principle of the committee was to evaluate the economic impact on the agriculture sector by proposed legislative or policy changes.
- Greater effort into providing input from the committee at the outset as opposed to reacting and responding after the fact.
- New members would like to be provided with orientation information.

Action:

- To address industry's desire for more effective communication and provide feedback to members on issues, BCAC will take key messages from the draft minutes and distribute the information to BCAC members.
- Partnership Committee Cochairs (MOE, MAL and BCAC) will conference well in advance of the meeting to identify items for consultation at the next meeting and provide direction to the agenda committee.
- An orientation package to be made available for new committee members. The website already provides much of the information required.

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/partners/index.htm>

Newsletter – Brian Baehr, Terry Dash and Ted van der Gulik will set up a conference call to develop a proposal for a Newsletter including intended audience and the types of news items or activities that contribute to or address Committee issues.

Water Management

Action: Ted van der Gulik will initiate a Water Management subcommittee of the Partnership Committee. The committee will include representation from provincial and federal agencies as well as the BCAC commodity groups. The committee is also to include issues with respect to climate change and the impacts on agriculture water demand and supply.

Lunch

Groundwater Monitoring in the Abbotsford Aquifer – Presentation by Cathy Ryan, University of Calgary, on nitrate leaching monitoring work that is underway in the Abbotsford aquifer. Cathy will provide an abstract to attach to the minutes which will provide a link to the presentation on the University of Calgary's web site.

Climate Change and the Impacts on the Agriculture Industry – Presentation by Pablo Benitez on the future impacts. Market instruments and offsets such as carbon tax, cap and trading of emission permits and regulatory standards for reducing emissions were outlined.

Codes of Practice Status – Presentation by Jack Bryden. MOE is conducting a process for reviewing codes of practice and regulations with respect to waste management for the slaughterhouse industry to deal specifically with a CFIA exemption for slaughterhouses that dispose of waste on their own property. The review process will: gather information, develop a policy intentions paper for consultation, a consultation process, drafting and then implementation. Currently we are in the information gathering stage. The intentions paper will be completed by February 2007. The Food Processors Association has been actively involved in the initiative.

Ken Nickel provided an update on the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative and a pilot project that is underway in the Cariboo. Members are interested in the work that was being done and requested an update at the next meeting.

BC Sustainable Poultry Farming Group – Presentation by Kevin Chipperfield
This group has been funded by AEPI, Poultry Associations, Agriculture Canada and others. The group is aimed at resolving environmental issues. This has mainly been related to water in the past but is now moving into air quality issues. A research project testing vegetation filters for fan exhaust dust control has been underway. Results show that 65 – 70% of the dust can be captured by a two row vegetation strip.

The industry is continuing to look at options and plans to address surplus manure production in the Fraser Valley. A survey has indicated that 85% of producers support a manure processing plant in the Fraser Valley. Markets for poultry manure are being investigated.

Food safety BMP's are being developed to reduce potential for disease organism transmission from manure to humans.

Kevin to provide a copy of the presentation for circulation to the committee.

Habitat and Farmland Committee

Committee status and update provided by Ted van der Gulik on the committee's October 30th meeting. A report from the committee is attached to the minutes.

Key issues discussed:

Building Setbacks from Watercourses for Agricultural Buildings – John Patterson provided the status of the process to complete the building setback standards.

- Meetings with the greenhouse industry were held in July and August.
- A proposal has been forwarded to MOE and DFO for approval. Once approval from agencies has been obtained, further consultation with BCAC and the greenhouse industry will be done.
- The backgrounder for consultation with UBCM is still under development. The format will be question and answer. UBCM will pose a number of questions that need to be addressed.

Agroforestry Workplan – This program will expand the capacity and support the integration of two agroforestry management systems: silvopasture and forest farming. A contractor has been hired until March 2008 to implement the work plan.

Vegetation Management Project - the vegetation management project is ongoing. Sites in the BC Interior, Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley are being assessed this fall.

Riparian Management Workplan – The program will expand the capacity to promote riparian assessment training and support producers with integrated riparian management on agricultural lands. A contractor will be hired by December to implement the work plan.

Biodiversity Guide – Sylvia Von Schuckmann provided an update on the status on the development of a biodiversity planning guide. Funding has been secured to prepare the guide.

BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee

Wray MacDonnell provided a written update on the Agriculture and Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting held on October 11 and 12 in Fort St. John. The report is attached to the minutes. Concerns over the need to prorate and limit new compensation initiatives were raised.

Harvey Sasaki clarified the Policy direction for government funded compensation.

- The federal and provincial government agreed to a pilot program with a \$1.0 million annual budget.
- Industry was given the responsibility to identify priorities for consideration within the \$1.0 million annual budget.
- Compensation was to be provided as a last resort, paying on the residual damage, if any, after all other mitigation or reduction measures had been taken.

Nutrient Management Committee

Orlando Schmidt provided an overview of committee activities. A committee report is attached to the minutes. A report on the 2005 Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Survey has been received by the committee. MAL is interested in conducting a similar study in the Okanagan Valley and will initiate consultations with the agriculture industry.

The committee also wishes to initiate a study to quantify poultry manure movement within the Fraser Valley and the amount leaving the valley. The first phase will be to scope out the methodology.

Manure Storage Capacity Survey – John Luymes provided an update on the Manure Storage Survey project for all of British Columbia. A Steering Committee will be set up to provide oversight and manage the project. The agriculture industry has given its support for the project.

Agriculture Byproduct Strategy – Allen James provided an update on the Agriculture Byproduct Strategy for British Columbia. MAL and BCAC have started to develop a draft of the strategy that will include agricultural wastes and byproducts.

Action: Establish a PC subcommittee on Agriculture Byproducts – Orlando Schmidt and Steve Thomson to investigate the possibility of using existing AEI committee with an expanded membership and determine next steps.

Plastic Recycling Project

Gustav Rogstrand provided information on a plastic recycling pilot project that is being carried out by the Regional District of South Okanagan. The project is funded partially by AEI, MAL and MOE.

Agriculture Land Management Strategy

Terry Dash provided an update on a strategy that is being developed to determine the priorities on land issues and management of agriculture lands in Canada. A couple of issues are the competition for land and water resources and the societal expectations of agriculture. An executive summary of the workshop will be prepared and ready in December.

Updates

Agri-Food Policy Framework

APF Next Generation – Philip Bergen provided an update. Three sets of consultations will be held for each theme and thematic papers will be developed before initiating consultations across Canada.

EFP National Farm Stewardship Program – Ron Bertrand provided a written update on the NFSP. The report is attached to the minutes. There is some concern that all monies will not be spent by the time the program ends in March 2008. A renewed effort is now underway to promote the program with delivery organizations. Producers commented that one factor that might be limiting uptake is that the current cost share isn't adequate to make it interesting to producers. They encouraged more provincial funding.

AEI Update – Brian Baehr provided an update on the AEI. A report is attached to the minutes. The IAF contribution agreement has been extended for 1 year to July 2008.

CBCWSEP – Phil Bergen provided an update. A report is attached to the minutes.

Ecological Goods and Services Policy - A one day information session with agricultural leaders in the province and other invitees has been set up in Kamloops for November 25, 2006. The intent is to determine what options and principles for ecological goods and services will work in British Columbia.

NAESI – Laura MacLean provided an update. A stakeholder workshop was held in March 2006. A report from the workshop is available on line. A national technical workshop will be held for EC staff in December 2006.

Agenda Items for future meetings:

- Wildlife Act Update – Mike Badry
- Soil Survey Report – Orlando Schmidt
- GVRD Presentation on Air Emissions and Alternate Fuels for Greenhouse Industry – target for presentation at November meeting – Steve Thomson
- Organic Waste Management Strategy for the Fraser Valley – Jack Bryden
- Alien Species – Ted Lea
- Water Bucket – Ted van der Gulik
- Bio-Fuels – BC Grain Producers
- Provincial Water Strategy – Jim Mattison

Next meeting: March 1st 2007 in Victoria

Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative Summary

September 20, 2006

	Slaughter Wastes Disposal Activities	Emergency Planning Activities	Total
Number of Applications Reviewed	25	3	28
Number of Applications Approved	21	3	24
Total Value of Projects Approved	\$420,639	\$187,934	\$608,573
IAF Commitments to Approved Projects	\$229,936	\$187,934	\$417,870

Significant Current Activities

- Working with applicants on project development (RFP development, consultant selection, LWTI application):
 - Evaluation of rendering options, applicant – BC Food Processors Association,
 - Air Emission requirements, applicant – Ministry of Environment,
 - Farmed fish mortality emergency plan, applicant – BC Salmon Farmers Association, and
 - Large animal disposal options for Fraser Valley, applicant – BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.
- Actively overseeing projects as a member of the project steering committees:
 - FADES phase II project [LWT005-b],
 - Local Government mortalities disposal planning template development project[LWT015],
 - North OK/Thompson waste tissue disposal project [LWT019], and
 - Landfill requirements project [LWT021].
- Organize the September 23, 2006 slaughter industry workshop.
- Working with CFIA to determine if using “Naturally Contained Landfills” in BC for the disposal of SRM will have an acceptable risk of transmission of BSE to domestic ruminants

Top Four Activities to be Completed by Year End

- Push for a decision from CFIA on being able to use “Naturally Contained Landfills” for SRM disposal.
 - Convince landfill operators to take slaughter plant wastes into their landfills and get them to apply for a CFIA permit.
- Develop a funding formula (LWTI and AAFC funds if available) for slaughter plant on-site or off-site infrastructure. Off-site infrastructure may be at landfills or other central solutions.
- Emergency planning:
 - Complete FADES phase II training and exercising, and
 - Determine options for large animal disposal to use in the Fraser Valley.
- Continued Initiative management
 - Working with new applicants
 - Member of project steering committees
 - Manage projects
 - Organize LWTI Management Committee meetings

Caveat:

- Should the Federal funding arrive and be administered by IAF – LWTI the top four activities would change to include activities funded by this new program.

Rick Van Kleeck, PEng
Coordinator,
Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative,
Investment Agriculture Foundation.

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Habitat and Farmland Committee

Report to Partnership Committee

1. Building Setback Action items:

- a. A revised Draft Building Setbacks Standards Proposal as discussed at Habitat and Farmland meeting to be drafted by MAL and forwarded to agencies. Draft proposal to include MAL/BCAC programs and approaches for complying with the requirement to have riparian protection measures that are equivalent to the RAR as part of the standards.
- b. Agencies will then take the proposal to staff and management for their approval.
- c. MAL will set up meetings with the Greenhouse Association and BCAC for their concurrence once agency approval has been achieved.
- d. Work on the UBCM backgrounder will continue.
- e. MAL to prepare a Stormwater Factsheet that will be part of the Setback Implementation Guide.

2. Agroforestry Workplan and Funding

Within the framework of the Provincial and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Action Plan for Mountain Pine Beetle, the proposed program will expand the capacity and support the integration of two agroforestry management systems: silvopasture and forest farming, into agricultural land use options in BC. The funding is provided through an amendment to the Greencover Canada work plan to include two new TAC activities (Agroforestry Expansion (\$400K) and Riparian Management (\$400K) for a total of \$800,000) and the use of Greencover Canada funds currently allocated for Greencover BMPs (funds to be provided under the BCAC contribution agreement with IAF)

Intended outcomes of this initiative:

- Synthesis of information pertinent to silvopasture and forest farming in BC
- Decision-making tools to aid industry and producers in business planning
- Decision-making tools to aid producers and agencies in land use planning and policy development
- Partnership building

Work plan:

A. Develop toolkit and mechanisms for silvopasture integration into agricultural land-use options

Synthesize and provide a report on silvopasture information and resources pertinent to BC.

- Development provide a report of a pilot silvopasture economic model to yield best estimates of cost:benefit analysis.
- Provide a report on the identification and assessment options to address winter feed constraints to beef expansion via silvopasture.
- In conjunction with UBC and Applied Mammal Research Ltd., develop technical transfer materials on cattle usage of thinned and fertilized lodgepole pine sites, forage quality and quantity, wildlife competition for forage resource.

B. Develop forest farming and alternate crops toolkit for integration into agricultural land-use options.

Synthesize forest farming information and resources pertinent to BC

- Create a framework for evaluating potential alternate crops and compile plant specific information into an internal MAL database
- Compile alternate crops supplier and buyer directories and product standards guides

C. Agroforestry Coordinator

3. Agriculture Riparian Management Work Plan and Funding

Within the framework of the Environmental Farm Plan program and the Habitat and Farmland Committee, the proposed program will expand the capacity to promote riparian assessment training and support producers with integrated riparian management on agricultural lands

Intended outcomes of this initiative:

- Training and information resources for riparian management
- Synthesis of integrated riparian management information
- Guidelines and BMPs for vegetation removal in agricultural riparian areas
- Integrated riparian management economic assessment

Work plan:

A. Production of riparian management materials as training and information resources based on the Alberta Cows and Fish riparian management model.

- Review of Cows and Fish training materials and program delivery models
- Develop BC adapted versions of the stream and wetland assessment Workbooks
- Develop a field guide to Riparian Plants of BC
- Develop a BC version of the Riparian Areas User's Guide
- Delivery of regional riparian training upgrade workshops

B. Riparian pilot projects on the agricultural use of riparian areas

- Review and synthesis of integrated riparian management information
- Develop guidelines for setbacks and BMPs on vegetation removal and management in the maintenance of riparian areas on agricultural lands
- Assess potential economic impacts of integrated riparian management and local government incentives through regional pilot projects

C. Riparian Management Coordinator

4. Vegetation Management Project

Prior to 2005-06 fiscal year end, initial project funding was provided by MOE to Gordon MacKinnon to engage in a preparatory work meeting, a preliminary selection of the coastal assessment sites, and an initial survey, catalogue and preliminary review of BMP information. MAL regional agrologists from Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley and the Southern Interior have been canvassed and have provided a list of potential assessment

sites. Due to scheduling conflicts, site assessments have been delayed until this fall. Sites in the Okanagan and Thompson regions are being reviewed this month along with sites on Vancouver Island. Meeting dates are currently being scheduled for the Fraser Valley sites. The timeline for the project has been extended to accommodate a variety of logistical considerations.

5. Riparian Management Factsheets

The process of incorporating the Committee's comments is in progress. Once all the comments submitted by Committee members are addressed, final draft copies will be forwarded to committee members for a final scan.

6. Township of Langley Drainage Issue Raised through the UBCM

UBCM asked Hugh to raise an issue at the H & F meeting, related to drainage management and Municipal agreements to do channel maintenance. Recommendation was made to invite ToL to the next meeting to discuss the issue in more detail.

October 31, 2006

Ted van der Gulik

BC Nutrient Management Working Group

Report to Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

RE: Tour and Meeting in North Okanagan Oct 19 & 20, 2006

1. Tour – October 19, North Okanagan Region

On the afternoon of October 19, the BCNMWG met for a tour of 3 farming operations in the North Okanagan to listen and learn about nutrient management issues in the region. The stops included the following locations:

Stop 1: Hans Dueck's broiler operation (2273 Powerhouse Road - Armstrong). Hans has owned this farm for about 16 years and produces 65,000 broilers per cycle.

Stop 2: Jansen's dairy site (under construction) - This is a brand new large dairy farm. The Jansen family is relocating from Matsqui Prairie. They have been consulting with the dairy EFP planning advisor during construction as they want to ensure they are doing things right as they start off in a new community.

Stop 3: Bykerk's beef operation (2939 Sallenbach Road - just south of Silver Creek). This ranch is in the Salmon River watershed and is part of the national **Watershed Evaluation of BMPs** study. Mike Wallis, a local consultant and EFP Planning Advisor was our guide.

2. Meeting – October 20, Vernon

Most of the meeting revolved around a presentation of the results of the 2005 Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study, facilitated by Orlando Schmidt (MAL) and based on the preliminary scientific report prepared by Dr. Grant Kowalenko (AAFC). Following a healthy discussion of the report, it was accepted by the BCNMWG. Next steps agreed to by the working group were:

- Presentation of Report to the BC APF Environment Chapter Working Group on November 9, 2006 in Chilliwack.
- Preparation of a synopsis report (executive summary), also for presentation to the BC APF Environment Chapter Working Group

Note: The report was also presented to Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Assistant Deputy Minister Harvey Sasaki on October 30, 2006.

Other presentations and discussion topics in the Vernon meeting included:

- Presentation by Trina Koch (MOE, Penticton) on a groundwater characterization study currently underway by Ministry of Environment in the Deep Creek watershed.
- Orlando Schmidt announced that the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is interested in initiating consultations with the agriculture industry about a proposal for conducting a soil nutrient study in the North Okanagan in 2007. Producers were supportive of scheduling a further consultation session in the near future. One recommendation was that the study should cover the entire Okanagan basin rather than just the North Okanagan.
- Update by George Derksen (EC) that plans are moving forward for a study to quantify the movement of poultry manure within the Fraser Valley and exported outside of the Fraser Valley. The study is being proposed in two phases with the first being a small scoping study to establish the methodology for the larger study that will likely occur in 2007.
- Kim Sutherland (MAL) gave a presentation on a study recently initiated by the University of Calgary (in cooperation with the Raspberry Industry Development Council and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) to quantify nitrate presence and movement from surface soils through the vadose zone and into groundwater on a specific site located over the Abbotsford aquifer.

The next meeting of the BCNMWG will likely occur in January 2007 (date not yet fixed).

Respectfully Submitted by
Orlando Schmidt, PAg,
Environmental Soil Specialist, MAL
November 2, 2006

Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program

Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment November 8, 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.
- Total Program funding available: \$5,600,000. Application deadlines are January 1, April 1, June 1, and September 1. 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:

- Program figures since inception up to and including the Sept 1, 2006 application date:
 - Tier 1 - 503 applications reviewed, 398 approved, 142 completed, 169 under construction, and 88 canceled. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 1 projects: \$1,132,000. Original allocation: \$1,900,000.
 - Tier 2 – 33 applications reviewed, 20 approved, 3 completed, and 17 under construction. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 2 projects: \$2,274,000. Original allocation: \$2,500,000.
 - Tier 3 – 56 applications reviewed, 30 approved, 11 completed, and 19 in-process. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 3 projects: \$1,826,000. Original allocation: \$1,100,000.
- There is continued interest in all three categories of projects. The Program Working Group has re-allocated some Tier 1 funds to priority Tier 2 and 3 projects to prevent funds originally allocated to Tier 1 from lapsing when the Program ends in March 2008. It is unlikely that the Program Working Group will accept any further Tier 2 or 3 project applications as sufficient funds need to be reserved for all Tier 1 projects that can be completed before March 2008. Tier 1 applications are still being accepted. Continued effort will be made to promote the Tier 1 component of the Program. “Good news” articles have been written and will soon be available for use in farm organization newsletters and local media.

Prepared by: Philip Bergen
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
October 30, 2006

Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program

Report to the Partnership Committee

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 Versteegen	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 September 30, 2006

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

- Communication events 408
- Workshops 849
- Producer participants 3264
- Statements of Completion 1118

Incentive Funding Activities to September 30, 2006

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

- Applications reviewed 1169
- Applications approved 996
- Program funds to producers (committed and expended) \$5.4 M
- Total project value (approximate) \$18 M
- Ducks Unlimited Canada funding for selected BMP's \$172,406

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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October 31, 2006

AEI Report to Partnership Committee

Operations Update:

- The contribution agreement with Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) which was scheduled to expire in July 2007 has been extended to July of 2008
- A coordinated AEI communications initiative has commenced with assistance from IAF. The intent of the initiative is to raise awareness amongst farm and non-farm audiences about the types of issues being tackled by the industry with AEI funding assistance
- The AEI Management Committee continues to receive and review a wide range of applications. Recent approved applications have included projects on such topics as agricultural plastics recycling, starling control, wildlife impacts assessment on forage and grain crops, noxious weed awareness and education, research into pest management for cherries and poultry manure management.

Financial Update:

- To date 126 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 167 submitted and 60 projects completed.
- Financial status to date
 - \$10.7 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. Included in that is \$15,000 expended of the \$1,000,000 committed for new and supplemental BMP's.
 - \$795,000 of \$990,000 of AESI funds has been committed.
 - A further \$303,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.
 - \$3.23 million is the estimated MAL expenditure to the end of the 05-06 fiscal for the wildlife compensation projects. One million is committed for fiscal 06-07 and 07-08.

Brian Baehr
October 31, 2006

"Final Draft" Executive Summary – National Ag-land issues workshop

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) hosted a two day workshop in Mississauga, Ontario September 27 and 28, 2006 to discuss the development of the Strategy for Agricultural Land (SAL). The workshop was attended by almost 50 government (provincial and federal) and industry partners. The workshop itself consisted of a combination of plenary style discussions and presentations, as well as a series of break-out sessions. The primary objectives of the workshop were to validate and prioritize the issues that will form the basis for development of the SAL, and to discuss how these issues could or should be addressed by all stakeholders, and AAFC in particular.

Issue Validation

Prior to the workshop, AAFC distributed a discussion paper titled "Issues Analysis" that put forward ten key issues impacting agricultural land in Canada. The initial workshop break-out session was devoted to validating and/or revising this list of issues. Overall, there was a general consensus that the ten issues identified by AAFC are valid; there were no issues that participants felt clearly did not belong. .

The ten issues contained in the Issues Analysis document were also considered to be a fairly exhaustive list of the major issues affecting agricultural land in Canada. Some new issues were put forward and then discussed in terms of being a 'new' issue that should be added, whether the point was already captured within another issue, or whether it was an overriding aspect of agricultural land issues in general.

Two new issues generated considerable discussion and withstood discussion to be put forward as issues to be added to the original list of ten; Farm Profitability and the Unintended Consequences of Government Programs and Policies. In particular, the Farm Profitability issue was discussed at length and the break-out groups concluded that while this is a key driver affecting agricultural all aspects of agricultural land, it was not an issue that can or should be addressed by the SAL..

Another key point arising from this part of the workshop discussion was the need for AAFC to expand on the discussion/description of some existing issues to explicitly include the additional concerns or issues noted by participants, especially the impacts of farm profitability. Finally, a handful of original issues put forward by AAFC were considered similar enough that they could be combined.

Issue Prioritization

This exercise worked surprisingly well given the diverse interests represented at the workshop. Participants were asked to first independently rank their three top priority issues and then the three of lowest priority. Following this, a group discussion ensued to come to consensus on three or four high priority issues that would be brought forward to the main workshop group.

The issues that surfaced as being of high importance across the breakout groups are as follows:

- * Societal Expectations [and Perceptions] of Agriculture
- * Farm Practices May Not Be Compatible with Landscape Capacity
- * Lack of Appropriate Information Development, Management and Application
- * Competition for Water and Agricultural land

Addressing the Issues

This was the widest ranging discussion of the four break-outs sessions. There was a common view that legislation is important in addressing many of these issues, and that much of the legal framework required is already in place. The groups felt that what is required is increased communication and incentives to adopt certain practices and enforcement to bring along the late-adopters. The provision and accessibility of accurate information and research were also noted as very important tools to begin addressing some of the priority agricultural land issues.

Education, of the general public and policymakers, was also suggested as a solution to some of the land issues confronting agriculture. In terms of the general public, education was seen as key to addressing the issue of Societal Expectations and Perceptions of Agriculture. At the policy-maker level, particularly at the municipal level, it was felt there is a need to inform officials of agriculture practices and how land use and zoning decisions can impact these practices.

AAFC's Role

Research, information and funding were consistent suggestions from participants when it came to AAFC's role in addressing the four priority issues.

It was recognized that jurisdictional concerns and AAFC's distance from day-to-day activities of the producer is a challenge when it comes to the department introducing measures to significantly address the issues effecting agricultural land. However participants were strongly of the view that there are some existing, as well as new areas, where AAFC can demonstrably influence and help address some of these concerns.

AAFC can expand on existing programs such as Environment Farm Plans and the National Farm Stewardship Program that encourage beneficial management practices. In particular, the successor to APF could be a vehicle to influence agricultural land use and management decisions and practices..

Another suggestion raised was that AAFC is uniquely positioned to assist with the development of various agricultural land use and condition databases, and while doing so ensure that costly duplication is not occurring-either in different provinces or within different federal government departments. AAFC could be a coordinating body in this regard.

Many suggestions for AAFC's role ultimately came down to a long-term funding commitment to provide information and resource support to various levels of government and industry stakeholders. Ideally, such funding support should be cost-shared in some manner to ensure a commitment from the producer.