

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Minutes of meeting number 33 held on October 30th, 2007 in Richmond

Attendees	Affiliation
Jim Mattison	Ministry of Environment
Harvey Sasaki	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Bruce Reid	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
George Derksen	Environment Canada
Steve Thomson	BC Agriculture Council
Jennifer Dyson	BC Agriculture Council
Denise MacDonald	BC Fruit Growers Association
Glen Lucas	BC Fruit Growers Association
Irmgard Critcher	BC Grain Producers Association
George Hamilton	BC Agriculture Council
Linda Allison	BC Agriculture Council
Lynne Wilson	BC Agriculture Council
Brian Baehr	BC Agriculture Council
Rolf Soth	BC Agriculture Council
Greg Norton	BC Agriculture Council
Christine Koch	BC Agriculture Council
Will Van Baalen	BC Blueberry Council
Allen James	BC Poultry Association
Cornelius Hertgers	BC Milk Producers Association
Paris Thomas	BC Milk Producers Association
Dick KleinGeltink	BC Milk Producers Association
Bob France	BC Cattleman's Association
David Borth	Ministry of Forests
Lorne Hunter	BC Dairy Producers
Alisa Williams	Ministry of Environment
Sylvia von Schuckmann	Ministry of Environment
Andy Witt	Ministry of Environment
Randy Cairns	Ministry of Environment
Janet Demarcke	Union of BC Municipalities
Lloyd McKimmon	Union of BC Municipalities
Brad Badelt	Township of Langley
John Berry	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Philip Bergen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Terry Dash	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ken Nickel	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Mark Robbins	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Gustav Rogstrand	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Chair – Harvey Sasaki

Recording Secretary – Ted van der Gulik

1. Minutes

Minutes of Meeting Number 32 at Ft. St. John meeting were approved with minor changes. Minutes to be posted on the web site as final.

2. Bio Energy Session

Gustav Rogstrand provided a short overview of on-farm renewable and bioenergy production opportunities. These include solar, geothermal, wind and biomass such as gasification, anaerobic digestion and energy crops. How these various technologies are associated with agricultural operations was discussed. The impacts of these technologies on the environment with respect to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and nutrient management were also outlined.

Gasification is not burning or incineration and results in lower emissions than either of these.

Anaerobic digestion generates biogas that can be used to produce electricity and/ or heat.

Paris Thomas gave an overview of the European Biogas Tour held in August 2007. Representatives from the agriculture industry, BC Hydro, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Economic Development and industry representatives interested in anaerobic digestion attended the tour.

Dick KleinGeltink provided a producer perspective and insight of the European anaerobic digestion tour.

Gustav Rogstrand updated the committee on the feasibility study findings on anaerobic digestion and biogas processing in the Fraser Valley. There is 3.3 million tons of organic waste available in the Fraser Valley. Manure is 82% of this total, food waste 8% and other sources 10%. This could generate 30 MW of electricity which is equivalent to 385,000 barrels of oil.

Barriers to initiating an anaerobic digestion pilot project that were identified in BC are:

- Rules that limit the amount of off farm materials that can be used on farm.
- Energy production is currently not a standard practice on the farm. The ALC will need to establish anaerobic digestion as an acceptable farm practice.
- Currently the energy price offered by BC Hydro does not make anaerobic digestion viable.

The industry also raised the concern about using good arable land for the siting of large facilities. Facilities should be sited on the most least productive land if possible.

Waste importation guidelines are currently being developed for agricultural waste, benign off farm waste, slaughter waste and prohibited wastes such as plastics, and solvents.

General consensus is that the PC wants to pursue AD as an opportunity for the agriculture sector. The rules, regulations and funding requirements to make AD work should be explored and established so that proponents of AD facilities can be treated the same and develop plans for constructing facilities.

Action: The AEI committee will:

- Define the problem, i.e. how can agriculture be a solution to a broader community waste management problem;
- Assess how to engage more than just the agriculture sector in advancing the adoption of the technology
- Identify the key drivers for the adoption of technology.

Action: Committee to provide Gustav with comments on the draft proposed guidelines for waste importation to agricultural lands.

3. **Bio Fuel Update from June PC meeting**

The grain producers have received some encouragement from the province to build a bio-diesel plant in British Columbia. Nothing has been finalized at this time.

4. **Habitat and Farmland Committee**

Items discussed at the committee included:

- Agriculture building setbacks from watercourses - see report attached that outlines the next steps. MOE and DFO are preparing letters to confirm approval in principle of the setbacks that have been developed. Meetings with the BCAC will be held in the next few months to obtain industry approval in principle as well.
- The vegetation removal strategy project is proceeding with a report expected by the end of the year. The report will be used to start the process on developing guidelines to producers on vegetation removal.
- A letter from the BC Tree Fruit Growers Association was received regarding concerns that some vegetation species on MOE and DFO's preferred planting lists were hosts for apple maggot. The committee has initiated contact with the agencies to see if we can get those species removed from the list.

Action: David Trotter will draft a letter to BCFGGA with regards to riparian plantings and quarantine pests. The letter will outline the actions being taken by the agencies to comply with the requests by the BCFGGA.

- A short discussion was held on the Biodiversity Guide for Farmers and Ranchers.

A comment was raised by Denise MacDonald about buffers and setbacks for residential and urban developments from agriculture lands to mitigate activities such as spraying.

Action: Ted vdG to contact the strengthening farming group in MAL.

5. **Water Strategy**

Ted vdG provided the current status of the work being done on the provincial water strategy from an agriculture perspective. An update on the Okanagan Agricultural Demand Model and the Irrigation Scheduling Calculator was given.

Jim Mattison provided some background on the groundwater management planning process, the Langley Water Management Pilot and the reasons behind the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.

Langley Groundwater Management Strategy

Brad Badelt provided background on the rationale behind the Langley Groundwater Management Strategy. Langley has 100,000 residents of which 80% are supplied by groundwater. There are 18 significant sand and gravel aquifers in Langley. Water levels in the Hopkington aquifer have reduced significantly in the past 40 years. Langley has completed a water resources management strategy and is in the process of doing a water demand management strategy.

Mark Robbins outlined the goals and outcomes of the Draft Water Management Plan. These include mandatory drilling authorizations, geological assessments for wells over 50 gpm, universal metering and “well aware” site visits. Reducing demand will include the installation of flow control devices as well as sprinkling regulations.

Contamination risks will be reduced by implementing a decentralized sewer management plan, nutrient management planning, ticketing agriculture waste control regulation violations and include the implementation of BMP’s.

A local advisory committee that includes farmers is in place to support the development of the plan.

Action: BCAC will follow up with Mark Robbins to ensure that the agriculture interests for the management plan are being met.

6. Wildlife Committee Update

Brian Baehr provided an update on the Wildlife Committee meeting. Wray MacDonnell also submitted a written update from the Wildlife Advisory Committee. A written update on the review of the wildlife act was also provided by MOE. Both reports are attached to the minutes.

Harvey Sasaki indicated that discussions on the wildlife compensation funding program are still underway but nothing can be announced at this time.

7. Fed - Prov Programming March 08

Philip Bergen indicated that an official decision on programming beyond March 08 to transition between the old program and a new program has not yet been made. The ministers have agreed in principle to a transition period for up to one year; however authority at the provincial and federal level must still be obtained.

A question was raised on funding for agriculture water supply infrastructure under the new APF agreement. John Berry indicated that it has not been forgotten but has also not been specifically included to date. The request has been acknowledged.

Action: The AEI Committee to develop a proposed plan of action to guide the transition year activities. Also, the Committee to develop performance measures for the program.

8. MOE Poultry Particulate Study

A copy of the study was handed out to the committee for their perusal only. A copy of the report will be posted on the MOE website.

9. SRM Program

Ken Nickel provided an update on the SRM program. A written update on the status of the SRM program is attached to the minutes.

10. Written Updates

- Nutrient Management Committee – Orlando Schmidt
- AEI – Brian Baehr
- EFP/NFSP/Greencover – Niels Holbeck
- NWSEP – Philip Bergen

11. Next Meeting Focus Session

Climate Change was chosen as the next topic of interest for the Partnership Committee Focus Sessions. It is likely that this topic will take more than PC meeting to cover properly. Climate Change and Carbon Credits will be the topic for the first meeting with adaptation to climate change a topic for a future meeting.

Action: Jim Mattison will contact Lynn Bailey to start the process of developing an agenda for the PC meeting in Victoria in March. Ted vdG to make contact with Sean Darling and Bruce MacKenzie at ILMB.

12. Possible Items for Future Meetings

- Organic Waste Management Strategy
- Alien Species – Laura Darling
- GVRD Presentation on Air Emissions and Alternate Fuels
- Waterbucket – Ted vdG

13. Next Meeting – March 4th, 2008 in Victoria

Habitat and Farmland Committee

Building Setback Standards

October 29, 2007

Background:

The agriculture community and federal and provincial agencies are developing setback standards for new agriculture buildings comparable to those required under the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR). The Habitat and Farmland Subcommittee Riparian Working Group, under the Partnership Committee for Agriculture and the Environment, was charged with developing guidance for agriculture building setbacks in agricultural areas.

Progress:

The Riparian Working Group has developed draft guidance for agricultural building setbacks adjacent to natural streams, channelized streams and constructed channels and ditches. The Riparian Working group met with UBCM representatives to discuss the proposed approach on October 10 and with the Habitat and Farmland Committee on October 17. DFO and MOE are working on letters to confirm approval-in-principal of the setbacks. Once the BCAC receives the letters from DFO and MOE, a meeting will be set up with Producer Group Representatives to brief them about the setbacks that have been approved-in-principal and receive their comments.

A mapping project is being developed to facilitate the implementation of setbacks. The project will provide farmers and local governments with consistent and accurate information to classify streams and determine appropriate agricultural building setback distances. The map information will build on existing data and maps for Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island Agricultural Land Reserve areas and regions of agricultural activities.

Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee

Richmond, BC 2007-10-29

Highlights:

- **Wildlife Act Review:** Chris Hamilton, MoE is the lead for review. No decision yet by cabinet in proceeding with amendments to the Act. MOE is still in the process of reviewing the overwhelming public, stakeholder and first nation response to the discussion paper.
- **Bison at large:** Bison are regulated under the Game Farm Act. With current low prices for bison, some producers are allowing bison to escape on to crown or private lands. Regulations allow owners 30 days to recapture escapees; otherwise, the government may acquire ownership. The MAL Game Farm Coordinator can declare the bison to be property of the government.
The Peace River has the vast majority of bison in BC. It is estimated that over 300 bison are currently at large. Ranchers and crown land habitat have had forage and property damage from these animals. Public safety is also a significant concern by committee members. Concerns were expressed that there was less than adequate support to have the Regulations enforced. MAL staff recently met with BC Bison Association and MoE to solicit support in resolving the problem.
- **Compensation and Mitigation Projects:** Four pilot forage compensation projects were continued in 2007-08 without prorating (Waterfowl in Delta and Courtenay, ungulates in the East Kootenay and Cariboo). However, many other areas of the province suffered losses from wildlife but were not provided compensation. There is strong support from the committee to recognize the losses province-wide.
Predator Loss Compensation and Mitigation Program continue to be administered by the BC Cattlemen's Association. Recommendation that AWAC support the continuation of the Predator Loss Programs and that that message be conveyed to the Partnership Committee.
- **Landowner Incentive Program:** reported on by Jeff Morgan, Fish & Wildlife Branch, MoE, Kamloops
 - a) 3600 acres enrolled in East Kootenay Landowner Enfranchisement Pilot Project in 2007 in exchange for forage loss compensation and hunter access to private lands.
 - b) Nine landowners representing 4500 acres are enrolled in the Peace River Landowner Enfranchisement Pilot Project. Landowners receive a flat rate payment for providing hunter access.
- **Proposed Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program (PAZWP)** - Jeff Morgan leader of proposal.
Proposal is to recognize special agriculture zones with specific hunting objectives and opportunities.
Discussions underway with BCCA, BC Wildlife Federation, BCAC, MAL, etc to determine feasibility of proposal. Concerns of producers and BCWF will require further deliberations before any implementation.

Prepared by: Wray McDonnell

Wildlife Act Review

- Since 2004, Ministry of Environment staff have been identifying and analyzing issues with the existing Wildlife Act.
- Headquarters and regional staff, legal counsel, conservation officers, First Nations, stakeholder groups and the general public have identified strengths and weaknesses with the existing Act and regulations.
- All known issues were identified, categorized and analyzed.
- Results of preliminary analysis were submitted to Minister of Environment Barry Penner.
- In April 2007 Minister of Environment Barry Penner and Premier's Office gave the Wildlife Act Review Project Team permission to consult on the identified issues and look for possible solutions.
- Public Discussion Paper was created and released on dedicated Wildlife Act Review website.
- Discussion Paper generated over 550 submissions from stakeholders and the general public via the website.
- All submissions can be found on the *Wildlife Act* Review website at the following address:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlifeactreview/feedback/>
- Wildlife Act Review Project Team met with key clients and stakeholder groups in dedicated meetings, and met with First Nations all across BC and the Yukon.
- Virtually all policy analysis (based on consultation results) is now complete.
- Detailed drafting instructions are being prepared.
- Wildlife Act Review team is submitting the results of the consultation phase and policy analysis to Cabinet for their inspection and approval.
- Cabinet will be deciding in the near future on the next steps for these changes.
- There is potential for new legislation in Spring 2008.

Update provided by Scott Black – Policy Analyst



**CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA
SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL (SRM)
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**



The Canada-British Columbia Specified Risk Material (SRM) Management Program is funded through a 60:40 federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (BCMAL). The program is designed to assist the province’s beef processing sector in complying with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s enhanced feed ban regulation.

There are six areas of support or subprograms under the Canada-British Columbia Specified Risk Material Management Program. These include:

- A. *On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation and Storage*** - directs funding towards projects which will establish slaughter plant infrastructure for separation and handling of SRM in order for them to be in compliance with amended Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulations under the Feeds Act, Fertilizer Act, Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act that come into effect July 12, 2007.
- B. *On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Destruction and Containment*** - directs funding towards projects which will establish infrastructure at British Columbia slaughter plants for disposal (destruction or containment) of SRM.
- C. *Regional/Community SRM Destruction or Containment*** - directs funding towards projects which will establish infrastructure for regional/community disposal (destruction or containment) of SRM in British Columbia.
- D. *Bovine Deadstock Storage, Destruction and Containment*** - directs funding towards projects which will establish infrastructure for BC deadstock collectors for separation, storage, or disposal (destruction or containment) of bovine deadstock.
- E. *Environmental Assessments*** - required for SRM Projects, provides funding for environmental assessments required for SRM projects to establish infrastructure for disposal (destruction and containment) of SRM.
- F. *On-Site Slaughter Plant SRM Separation, Storage, Destruction or Containment*** - directs funding towards projects not previously eligible under Subprograms A and B to establish infrastructure at British Columbia slaughter plants for separation, storage, and disposal (destruction or containment) of SRM.

PROGRAM APPLICATION STATUS

SRM Program	SRM Program Applications Received	Incomplete Applications	Applications Approved by Adj. Committee	Agreements Offered	Agreements Accepted and Signed	Total Program Funds Offered
Programs A&B:	26	6 of 24	17 of 24	12 of 24	11 of 24	\$1,405,277
Program C	1	-	1 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 1	\$ 7,116
Program D	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program E	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Misc Funding	3	-	3 of 3	-	0 of 2	\$13,500

November 1, 2007

**BC Nutrient Management Working Group
Meeting Highlights - October 18, 2007**

Note: These notes represent key discussion items where decisions or resolutions were made. They do not account for all items on the agenda.

Submitted by: Orlando Schmidt, BCMAL

1. In March 2007, the Pacific Regional Soil Science Society (PRSSS) held its annual workshop at UBC focusing on the theme of soil testing methods and interpretation. The event was designed to initiate new conversations about this theme. The PRSSS is looking for a theme for their 2008 event and they are considering doing a follow up to the 2007 workshop, with the goal of setting directions for the future of soil testing and interpretation in BC. The BC Nutrient Management Working Group (BCNMWG) resolved to endorse such a workshop and will encourage the PRSSS to hold it in a more accessible location for the agriculture industry, and invite a wider spectrum of people to participate, including representatives from key agriculture industry groups and the fertilizer industry.
2. The **Poultry Manure Movement Study** has been in the planning stages for nearly a year. To accelerate this project, the BCNMWG passed a resolution to encourage the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) to develop and submit a proposal for this study to the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands as soon as possible.
3. The BCNMWG considered the concept of repeating the Census-Based Nutrient Balance Study in the Lower Fraser Valley for the 2006 Census period. This study has been done previously following the 1991, 1996, and 2001 Census periods. While some in the group were in support, there was opposition from others. With a lack of consensus, no decision was made in support of this study at this time.
4. The BCNMWG spent approximately an hour reviewing lessons learned from the **Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study** in an effort to initiate conversations about what are the next appropriate steps. The time allotted for this discussion was clearly too short but some opportunities for next steps that were identified were:
 - a. Greater extension efforts.
 - b. Further thought needs to go into how to address high-risk fields.
 - c. Information from the study should feed into the development of future programs (such as the Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan Program).
 - d. Further work is required in developing a better soil testing and interpretation program for BC (see note 1 above).
 - e. There is a need for improved Nutrient Management Planning Tools, and these should be sector specific (e.g. different tools for livestock sector versus horticulture).
5. Items for next meeting. It was proposed to invite speakers from 2 or 3 local governments (i.e., Township of Langley and City of Abbotsford) to discuss their water management planning processes with possible links to nutrient management. A discussion of nutrient management implications of anaerobic digestion was also recommended.

Agriculture Environment Initiatives UPDATE

Operations Highlights:

- BCAC and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC continue to work on details of a proposal that would see the establishment of an Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund. Although the fund would be essentially a successor to the current Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative fund, the Council and Foundation are seeking to position the new initiative to include a more pro-active role in strategic areas. A special meeting of the AEI Management Committee to discuss priorities for a pro-active role is scheduled for October 31st.
- In response to a number of enquiries and the approval of 2 agricultural plastics recycling projects, a seminar on Agricultural Plastic Recycling in BC has been organized. The current options of burning plastics or depositing them in landfill sites are becoming less and less desirable. The intent of the seminar, scheduled for this November, is to provide an overview of the current initiatives and challenges faced in expanding opportunities to conveniently collect, package and recycle unwanted agricultural plastics.
- Wildlife agriculture conflict issues and initiatives were featured at the June meeting of the Agriculture Environment Partnership Committee in Ft St John. There has been some progress noted above related to an Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund and continuing efforts behind the scenes on an expanded wildlife damage compensation program. A process led by MoE to establish a special agricultural zone hunting licence is evolving into a potentially broader initiative addressing other opportunities for cooperative actions between wildlife and agriculture agencies and organizations. The objective is to have some longer term tools in place as well as to focus attention on several priority issues around the province that need to be addressed in the shorter term.

Financial Update:

- To date 124 applications have been fully or partly approved of the 193 submitted and 81 projects completed.
- Financial status to date
 - \$11.3 million of \$12 million in AEPI funds have been committed by MC decisions to date. Included in that is \$58,500 expended of the \$1,000,000 committed for new and supplemental BMP's.
 - \$902,000 of \$990,000 AESI funds have been committed
 - A further \$303,000 has been received by BCAC for contributions towards AESI/AEPI projects and operations.



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

Update Report – September 30, 2007

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 completed 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.

Current 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	Peter Spencer	250-764-0376
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 Potato and Vegetable Growers Assoc.	Jyl Singh	604-807-5659
BC Poultry Association	Allen James	604-795-7656
Certified Organic Association of B.C.	Paddy Doherty	250-747-3287
Comox Valley Farmers' Institute	Mary-Jane Douglas	250-337-1834
Creston Valley Agricultural Society	Les Molnar	250-551-5171
District "C" Farmers' Institute	Warren Wilson	250-967-4545
Horse Council British Columbia	Mona Desy	604-856-4304
Island Farmers' Alliance	Peter Versteeg	250-743-2243
Peace River Forage Association of BC	Julie Robinson	250-782-4501
United Flower Growers Cooperative Assoc.	Susan McLeod	604-290-1185

Environmental Farm Planning Activities Initiation to September 30, 2007

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

- Communication events 563
- Workshops 1584
- Producer participants 4450
- Statements of Completion 1949

Delivery Groups Approved for 2006 / 2007:

The Working Group approved continued funding for the 16 Delivery Groups for the 2006/2007 fiscal year:

- Total approved budget for Delivery Groups \$670,000
- Projected Statements of Completion for 2006/2007 800

Incentive Funding Activities April 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007

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

- Applications approved 280
- Program funds to producers (committed and expended) \$1.73 M
- Total project value (approximate) \$6.0 M (est.)

Ducks Unlimited Funding:

BCAC and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) recently renewed their partnership agreement supporting the environmental stewardship practices of BC farmers and ranchers. BCAC delivers the Environmental Farm Plan Program in BC, and DUC has hundreds of on-farm habitat projects in the province that benefit waterfowl, wildlife and agriculture. This year the BCAC-DUC partnership will assist producers with \$200 000.00 towards the implementation of BMP's that have a demonstrated benefit to waterfowl. Since last year the DUC-BCAC partnership has assisted with projects having a value of more than \$3.0 million and most importantly has assisted with the long term sustainability of more than 170 BC Family Farms.

Equivalent Agri-Environmental Farm Plan Pilot:

An equivalent Agri-Environmental Farm Plan pilot was launched this fiscal year with the Salmon River Watershed Society. The Agri-Environmental Farm Plan will focus riparian area management and erosion control structures. It is hoped that producers will complete 100 projects during the course of the agreement.

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: niels@bcac.bc.ca		Ron Bertrand, PAg Tel: 604 308-6755 Fax: 604 854-4485 E-mail: ron@bcac.bc.ca
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October 2007

Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program

Update for Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
October 17, 2007

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. The last application date was June 1, 2007. **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.

Program Activity Highlights:

- Program figures since inception:
 - Tier 1 - 759 applications reviewed, 597 approved (237 completed and 151 canceled). Total funding expended \$844,000. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 1 projects: \$1,582,000. Note: not all the remaining committed funds will be claimed.
 - Tier 2 – 36 applications reviewed, 25 approved, 9 completed, and 16 under construction. Total funding expended \$563,000. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 2 projects: \$2,359,000.
 - Tier 3 – 60 applications reviewed, 35 approved, 19 completed, and 16 in-progress. Total funding expended \$1,253,000. Total funding expended and committed to Tier 3 projects: \$1,889,000.
- 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. The last application date for all Tiers was June 1, 2007. All program funds have been committed and the Program Working Group is meeting as needed to manage the wind down of the program.

Prepared by: Philip Bergen
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
October 17, 2007