



### Highlights of meeting number 30 held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Chilliwack

for complete Partnership Committee Minutes and background information go to  
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/partners/index.htm>

**Abbotsford Aquifer and Nitrate Monitoring** - Dr. Cathy Ryan of University of Calgary described the work underway on nitrate leaching monitoring in the Abbotsford aquifer. She presented information on current research, and of similar research carried out in the past in Ontario. The Committee is looking into putting on a forum to discuss the research results when the project is completed.

**Climate Change and the Impacts on the Agriculture Industry** – Pablo Benitez of the BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) addressed the future impacts of climate change. Market instruments and offsets such as carbon tax, cap and trading of emission permits and regulatory standards for reducing emissions were outlined. Producer feedback included the fact that carbon credits from a few Peace River area farms have already been bought by European interests. Other producers also mentioned mountain pine beetle impacts, and that decisions are being made as to whether to reforest and/or clear and crop.

**Slaughterhouse Waste Code of Practices** – Jack Bryden (MoE) is conducting a process to review the 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, conduct consultations, draft the Code and ultimately lead to 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.

**Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative** – Ken Nickel of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) provided an update on the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative and a pilot project that is underway in the Cariboo. Committee members were interested in the work that was being done and requested an update at the next meeting.

**BC Sustainable Poultry Farming Group** – Kevin Chipperfield, manager of the SPFG, gave a brief presentation on the work of the group which is funded by AEPI, Poultry Associations, Agriculture Canada and others. The group is aimed at resolving environmental issues. This has mainly been related to groundwater impacts 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 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 also being developed to reduce potential for disease organism transmission from manure to humans.

### **AEPC - Water Management Committee**

The Committee agreed to initiate a Water Management subcommittee of the Partnership Committee. The committee will include representation from provincial and federal agencies as well as the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) commodity groups. The committee is also to include issues with respect to climate change and the impacts on agriculture water demand and supply.

### **AEPC – Habitat and Farmland Committee – Key issues discussed:**

*Building Setbacks from Watercourses for Agricultural Buildings* – John Patterson, Environment Canada (EC) 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 the Union of BC Municipalities (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 (MoE) provided an update on the status on the development of a biodiversity planning guide. Funding has been secured to prepare the guide.

### **AEPC – BC Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee**

Wray MacDonnell (MAL) reported on a recent meeting and tour held on October 11 and 12 in Fort St. John. Concerns over the need to prorate and limit new compensation initiatives were raised. Harvey Sasaki (MAL) clarified the Policy direction for government funded compensation.

### **AEPC – Nutrient Management Committee**

Orlando Schmidt (MAL) 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 (MAL) 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 by-products. Committee agreed to establish a subcommittee on Agriculture By-products – Orlando Schmidt (MAL) and Steve Thomson (BCAC) to investigate the possibility of using existing AEI committee with an expanded membership and determine next steps.

### **Agriculture Land Management Strategy**

Terry Dash Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) 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 ready in December.

### **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.