



Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: September 19, 2012
Location: G.H. Dawe Centre, Red Deer

In attendance

Board Members and Alternates:

Bob Bryant, Government
 Ken Dahl, Government
 Brian Goliss, Industry
 Cliff Knutson, Government
 Andy Lamb, Government
 Shane Lamden, Industry
 Jennifer Lutz, Government
 Jim McKinley, Government
 Paddy Munro, Government
 Jim Saltvold, Public
 Clay Tjostheim, Industry
 Wayne Ungstad, Public
 Reg Watson, Public
 Kevin Warren, Executive Director

Presenters:

Fiona Slessor, ESRD
 Michelle Casorso, ESRD

Guest:

Tali Neta, NRCB

Meeting Support:

Kim Sanderson

Not Attending

Jim Ainslie, Public
 Kelly Bauer, Government
 Paul Bradley, Industry
 Rod Boshnick, Industry
 Buck Buchanan, Government
 Tyler Callicot, Government
 Dale Christian, Public
 Bonnie Denhaan, Public
 Paul Harris, Government
 Robert Orr, Government
 Ed Szymakek, Industry
 Kim Ng, Public
 Dan Richen, Government
 Leonard Standing on the Road, Public

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Item	Who	Deadline
66.1: In 2012, the TWG will revisit the density of the passive monitoring network, decide if a study is needed, and report back to the Board.	TWG	Nov. 21
68.1: Kevin will prepare a summary of strategic plans from other airsheds when he receives all the plans.	Kevin Warren	Nov. 21
69.2: The IRG will further consider how PAMZ could be involved with health impact assessments with respect to ambient air quality and report back to the board.	IRG	Nov. 21
70.1: Kevin will draft a letter to Bob Myrick at ESRD, indicating that a) PAMZ is interested in developing the PM management plan, but it may be premature to start on it until there is more clarity on the next steps with respect to air zones; and b) ESRD should send out the notice to stakeholders; and will circulate to the board for comment.	Kevin Warren	Oct. 5

Reg Watson convened the meeting at 3:05 pm. Those present introduced themselves.

1. NATIONAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AQMS) UPDATE

Fiona Slessor of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ERSD) presented an overview of the national AQMS and provided a handout of her slides. The AQMS is a national initiative developed collaboratively by all governments as well as NGOs and industry. The system is expected to be approved at the October 10-11, 2012 meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) in Lake Louise. She described the elements of the program including:

1. Proposed Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and thresholds and the type of actions that would be required at each level.
2. Place-based management, which will see six regional airshed zones across Canada, along with air zones in each region. Under the AQMS, air zones will be geographic areas in Alberta for air quality management and for the Government of Alberta (GoA) to report air quality against the CAAQS. The existing airshed zones were formed primarily for monitoring air quality, although some do play a strong management role.
3. Base-level Industrial Emissions Requirements (BLIERs). These are considered a minimum standard to be regulated by the province with a federal backstop to ensure compliance.

Fiona also presented information about implementation in Alberta, noting that the GoA is responsible for designating provincial air zones. The intent is not to replace airshed zones, rather to build on what is already in place. Considerations in delineating air zones include efficiency, effectiveness, and alignment with the Land Use Framework (LUF) regional frameworks as well as reporting and cumulative effects management. Ultimately this is about managing and reporting air quality in the specific region. To not have air zones aligned with LUF regions would be very confusing. The aim is to finalize air zone boundaries this fall. CCME has directed that AQMS implementation is to start in 2013. The first national reporting against the CAAQS will occur in 2014, based on 2011-2013 data.

The following points emerged during discussion:

- Action will be needed to develop a PM management plan for the PAMZ region, but should this wait until the new air zones are formed? The LUF regions were based on watersheds, which are quite different from airsheds. PAMZ overlaps with three LUF regions, whereas it may make more sense for management of PM to look at the Edmonton-Calgary corridor.
- The CAAQS will be put into the LUF air quality management frameworks for PM, NO₂ and SO₂.
- No specific new airsheds are being proposed, which leaves much of the province without any air quality monitoring. ESRD noted that a new monitoring agency is being proposed, and Alberta does have enough monitoring in place to meet the CCME/AQMS requirements, which are not onerous.
- The Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Plan seems to have been forgotten, although it did lay out a formula for community monitoring. Fiona suggested that PAMZ invite Ernie Hui to a meeting to talk about monitoring plans.

ESRD is holding a meeting on September 24th to share more details with airsheds on the AQMS including the delineation of the air zone boundaries. Kevin and Reg will represent PAMZ, and Andy and Wayne are also planning to attend.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3.1 Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3.2 Minutes of June 20, 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting were approved by consensus.

3.3 Report on Action Items

Item	Status
66.1: In 2012, the TWG will revisit the density of the passive monitoring network, decide if a study is needed, and report back to the Board.	Carry forward; still waiting for report from the grad student working on this project. Her work is expected to be published in October.
68.1: Kevin will prepare a summary of strategic plans from other airsheds when he receives all the plans.	Carry forward. Kevin has three plans in hand and will make a final request at the Sept. 28 th AAC meeting.
69.1: Kevin will look into requirements and options to purchase green power for the PAMZ permanent monitoring sites, and report back to the board.	Done. Shell covers power costs at Caroline and the City of Red Deer does the same for Riverside. PAMZ reimburses landowners for power used for the portables, so green power is not practical for their use.
69.2: The IRG will further consider how PAMZ could be involved with health impact assessments with respect to ambient air quality and report back to the board.	Carry forward. AHS representative was unable to attend the IRG's August meeting.
69.3: The executive will send a thank-you letter to Clearwater County, acknowledging their in-kind support for PAMZ.	Done.
69.4: Kevin will circulate Bob Myrick's presentation to the board.	Done.

3.4 Memberships

All large member companies have paid, and 22 of the small companies have contributed \$26,000. The budget was based on receiving \$25,000 from small companies. Seven municipalities have joined, for \$47,122; budgeted amount was \$48,500. The Town of Lacombe did not renew but the Village of Caroline joined. Paul Bradley, West Fraser LVL's plant manager, will replace Al Simcoe on the board.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Technical Working Group (TWG)

Kevin reported that the TWG last met Sept. 7, focusing on the status of the ESRD audit and contractor performance. PAMZ submitted a letter to ESRD on June 22 and another on August 15, summarizing actions taken or planned in response to the audit results. The Red Deer ozone analyzer was re-audited on Aug. 27 and was within 2% after repairs. ESRD wants PAMZ to look at the Red Deer NO₂ monitor and invalidate any readings greater than 500 ppb collected since August 2009 (NO₂ monitor's installation date). PAMZ will determine how many readings there are before responding. ESRD is also asking that all monthly calibration and service reports be submitted to the auditor until they are satisfied that all AMD requirements are being met by the PAMZ contractor.

As described in previous minutes, contractor performance has been a concern. Focus was to have prepared an action plan indicating plans to improve operations, but that had

not been completed by the August 7 deadline. Following discussion of Focus's failure at the Sept. 7 TWG Meeting, Kevin met with senior management at Focus on Sept. 13 and gave them 10 working days to develop a draft plan, with a final plan due by Oct. 4. If a plan is not submitted, one option is 30 days notice of contract termination.

The TWG also reviewed 2013 locations for the portables based on IRG recommendations and discussed the 2008-2010 CWS assessment results (see presentation later in the minutes).

With regard to the co-location remote sensing study mentioned in June meeting, the company does not have enough inventory to free up a unit at this time.

b) Air Monitoring Program

Kevin reviewed the results of the air monitoring program since the last meeting. At Caroline, all levels have been within historical normals. No elevated THC or H₂S readings have been noted since the Plains Midstream pipeline leak near Sundre on June 7, which is not surprising.

Over the summer, the Red Deer station recorded elevated H₂S readings, but none exceeded the Ambient Air Quality Objective. These were attributed to the Three Mile Bend sewage treatment facilities. The PM_{2.5} analyzer had many negative values over the summer; some analyzer components have now been replaced and this appears to have resolved the issue.

There were a number of challenges in adhering to the portables schedule in recent months. A suitable site to monitor the East Edgar Industrial Area could not be found, so the Martha station went back to Mirror in June and was there for three months (June 6 – Sept. 5). No NO₂ exceedances were recorded during this time, but starting on June 6, low levels of H₂S were recorded during the late evening-early morning hours. These increased over time, peaking in late July, and were accompanied by elevated CH₄ levels. In total, there were 73 hourly and 12 daily exceedances. Observers described the odour as a sewer smell, and the investigation, being led by ESRD, initially focused on the sewer system, then shifted to nearby wetlands. The ERCB mobile unit failed to narrow down sources. Some PM_{2.5} exceedances from forest fires were observed in July. The Martha station is now at Bluffton and the original schedule has been resumed.

The McCoy station was late getting out of Sundre and late getting out of Crossfield due to wet conditions. It has been at Lacombe since June 6 at the same site as monitored in 2005. Levels have been within historical normals. Some low level TRS (probably mostly H₂S) has been observed with no distinct wind direction correlation, which is quite normal for a town this size. The station should be at a site in Red Deer by early October. The original intent was to use the McCoy station to characterize air quality at a couple of urban sites in Red Deer to try and find a replacement for Riverside, as discussed at previous meetings. Lancaster Reservoir and the Clearview Pumping Station are the two sites being considered. Kevin is working with Nathalie Viau of the City of Red Deer to coordinate site selection and preparation.

The levels and patterns for the passive sites were consistent with historical normals for May to July 2012. Station 20 was destroyed in June and has since been replaced. Passives at Mirror were left in place for June and July in error.

c) Ozone Management Plan (OMP)

The committee has not met since the June board meeting. If PAMZ does move ahead to prepare a PM management plan, it would make sense to assign the task to this group and expand their mandate and membership.

d) Issues Response Group (IRG)

The IRG met August 8, looked at complaint records and suggestions from the May public meeting, and then prioritized sites. Ferrier Acres was the highest priority, based on concerns during winter months; the next four sites had similar weightings with different issues (Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, a site with extensive flaring and visible emissions, and a site near a class 2 landfill). Others were lower priority. Using this information the following schedule was proposed by the TWG for the portables for 2013:

Month	Martha station	McCoy station
January	Class 2 landfill	Ferrier Acres
February	Sewage lagoon	Ferrier Acres
March	Eagle Hill	Ferrier Acres
April	Flaring site	TBA
May	Rocky Mountain House area	TBA
June	Sylvan Lake	TBA
July	Class 2 landfill	Crossfield-Carstairs
August	Sewage lagoon	Crossfield-Carstairs
September	Eagle Hill	Crossfield-Carstairs
October	Flaring site	TBA
November	Rocky Mountain House area	TBA
December	Sylvan Lake	TBA

Leaving open two blocks for the McCoy station provides flexibility (e.g., to assess more than one candidate site in Red Deer, respond to emerging issues). The TWG will revisit this schedule at its November meeting before making a final proposal to the board.

e) Communications Committee

Kevin reported that the Communications Committee met Sept. 12 and is now working with Sue Arrison as their communications contractor. Sue is looking at various activities for the committee to pursue and satisfy the objectives assigned to it in the PAMZ five-year plan. Only two applications were received for the scholarship this year, and the committee decided to drop the essay requirement and replace it with three questions. The photo contest continues to attract entries. There are now five categories, each with a first and second prize. The hope this year is to get “atmospheric” entries that illustrate pollution events, and steps are being taken to solicit more of these types of photos. Website usage is up 23% with many new users, but no correlation has been determined.

The board briefly discussed the criteria for the scholarship. It is meant for students who are pursuing an environmental program, but this might be too narrowly interpreted. It might be useful to provide some examples of appropriate subject areas (e.g., conservation biology, atmospheric sciences).

f) Financial

Bob Bryant distributed copies of the income statement for the year as of August 31, noting a few changes that need to be made to the line items. Auditor fees came in less than expected for this year. For the next meeting, Bob will show performance against the

budget. Kevin noted that some categories for completed projects can be dropped and he will work with the bookkeeper to do this.

Bob Bryant moved that the board direct the bookkeeper to write off unpaid member invoices for small companies from the financial record, as these companies are not obliged to pay; seconded by Brian Goliss; carried.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

CRAZ Funding Proposal

Kevin distributed copies of a proposal from CRAZ that the province collect a levy on vehicle registrations. This has been done in other places and would be a population-based formula. The proposal will be discussed at the next AAC meeting. The board briefly discussed the proposal, noting the following comments:

- The proposal is aimed at funding monitoring for non-point sources, but doesn't address transient sources.
- If an environmental levy is attached to vehicle registrations, it should be high enough that it could be used for other media too and not be limited to air.
- Distribution of the funds collected should not be tied solely to population.

In general, there was limited support for the proposal.

5. PRESENTATION ON FINE PARTICULATE MATTER AND PAMZ

Kevin presented an overview on particulate matter (PM) with specific reference to the 2008-2010 assessment. PAMZ has monitored PM since 2000 and now uses the BAMS-type monitors. Canada Wide Standards (CWS) for PM and Ozone were developed in July 2000, with the intent of balancing human health and the cost of controlling emissions. CWS were to be achieved by 2010; CASA was asked to develop a framework for Alberta to achieve the CWS, based on the concepts of continuous improvement, pollution prevention, and keeping clean areas clean. The CASA framework has three triggers and four corresponding action levels.

Up to 2009, PAMZ PM levels were well below the planning trigger at both stations. Since then, readings at the Red Deer site increased due to increased local industrial and associated traffic sources and the technology used. When levels exceed the CASA framework management trigger, a management plan is to be developed within two years to prevent future exceedance of CWS and maintain or improve air quality. For the 2008-2010 assessment, the Red Deer Station exceeded the planning trigger and indications are that for the 2009-11 assessment the station will exceed the actual CWS. PAMZ anticipated this and started looking at options to relocate the Red Deer station to better reflect the city's overall air quality, rather than being, in effect an industrial fence-line station. Kevin has asked ESRD to consider excluding data collected at this station since 2009 from the assessment. The numbers are expected to fall when the station is moved but PAMZ will also continue to monitor PM at the old site to determine what the gap is.

ESRD has asked if PAMZ will take on the task of developing a management plan and if PAMZ wants ESRD to notify stakeholders that the trigger has been exceeded. The executive agreed that any notice should come from ESRD. There are essentially two main issues:

- With the move of the civic yards to near the current Red Deer station, this station should no longer be in the PAMZ network, and the data should not be part of the

assessment.

- If the data are used and a PM management plan must be prepared, it doesn't make sense to do it alone, as Edmonton and Calgary are also required to do a plan. The biggest source of PM is motor vehicles and the three plans would have many similarities so it would be more efficient to do a joint plan.

Action 70.1: Kevin will draft a letter to Bob Myrick at ESRD, indicating that a) PAMZ is interested in developing the PM management plan, but it may be premature to start on it until there is more clarity on the next steps with respect to air zones; and b) ESRD should send out the notice to stakeholders; and will circulate to the board for comment.

The letter will be drafted after the AAC meeting and informed by that discussion.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 21st at the Dawe Centre in Red Deer.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.