

Coalbed Methane Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee II (the MAC II)  
Meeting Minutes  
Room 111, Red Deer Provincial Building  
April 11, 2008  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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In attendance:

Dwight Oliver	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties
Ernie Hui ( <i>Co-Chair</i> )	Alberta Environment
Sharil Baumgardner	Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Committee
Graham Gilchrist	Agriculture and Rural Development
David Breakwell ( <i>Chair</i> )	Alberta Energy
Tom Nahirniak	Alberta Surface Rights Federation
Don Bester	Butte Action Committee
Deryl Hurl	Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
Fiona Boulet	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers/Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Richard Dunn	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers/Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Bob Willard	Energy Resources & Conservation Board (ERCB)
Else Pedersen	Freehold Petroleum & Natural Gas Owners Association (FHOA)
Noel St. Jean	Sustainable Resource Development (SRD)
Mary Griffiths	The Pembina Institute

*Others*

Karen Henderson ( <i>secretariat</i> )	Alberta Energy
Doug Lammie ( <i>presenter</i> )	Alberta Energy
Retha Perkis ( <i>presenter</i> )	Alberta Energy
Sharla Rauschnig ( <i>alternate</i> )	Alberta Energy
Rhonda Wehrhahn ( <i>presenter</i> )	Alberta Energy
Tom Byrnes ( <i>alternate</i> )	ERCB
David McKenna ( <i>alternate</i> )	Alberta Environment (AENV)
Steve Wallace ( <i>presenter</i> )	Alberta Environment (AENV)
Gene Roach ( <i>facilitator</i> )	Culture and Community Spirit
Sari Shernofsky ( <i>writer</i> )	

*Absent*

Rich Smith	Alberta Beef Producers
Allen Wright	Coal Association of Canada

**Welcome**

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. Members introduced themselves and the organization they represented.

### **Opening Remarks**

David Breakwell provided opening remarks and introduced Ernie Hui who will be the AENV committee member and co-chair. Expected outcomes of the meeting were to receive updates on the recommendation status and finalizing the second year public update report. A couple of discussion items were added to the agenda.

A committee member raised the issue of clubroot, although this issue is out of scope for the MAC II. The MAC II was advised the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee is looking at the impact of this declared pest and how to stop its spread.

### **Ratification of Minutes**

The January 23 minutes were ratified. A committee member asked who sat on the Shallow Fracture Review Committee.

### **ACTION**

- *Karen will obtain a list of Shallow Fracture Review Committee members and share this with the MAC II.*

### **Update from the Department of Energy (DOE) – Doug Lammie**

Doug provided an update on the status of Energy-led recommendations. Six of the eight accepted recommendations have been completed, one is on schedule and one is behind schedule. Doug advised that a committee will be established to review the freehold mineral tax rights. The second phase of the review will be to look at issues relating to split title (recommendation 6.2.2). The work of the MAC II (recommendation 7.6.1) is ongoing. Doug introduced Rhonda Wehrhahn and Retha Perkis, Tenure, DOE, who provided a demonstration of the online mapping tool, which displays the most recent results for petroleum and natural gas (P&NG) sales and oil sands sales data (recommendation 9.4.1). The mapping tool is designed to be user-friendly and both a detailed on-line user manual and some on line quick tips are included on the web. The sales results map may be accessed by going to the department's website: <http://www.energy.alberta.ca/>. Scroll down to "People Services" and click on "Sales Results Map". On the "Interactive Maps" page, scroll down and click on "Sales Results Map".

### **Update from Alberta Environment (AENV) – Ernie Hui, Steve Wallace**

Ernie is the new MAC II member for AENV and is the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister. Steve Wallace provided a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted recent AENV activities with regards to the recommendations. Staff is available to operate a second water sampling truck this year. A few more water monitoring wells are expected to be added in 2008. A MAC II member asked what was being tested in the wells – David confirmed they would be using the same parameters as provided to the MAC II at the January 23 meeting.

Work on the groundwater inventory is ongoing (Year 2 of 4) and the Alberta Geological Survey will continue to collect airborne geophysical data in the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor over the next few months.

### **ACTION**

- *David McKenna will provide Karen with a map of the study area for distribution to the MAC II.*

The Groundwater Observation Waterwell Network will be expanding this coming year. There are presently about 200 monitoring wells on the network which are used for testing water quantity. In future, testing will be expanded to include water quality. Additional wells may be located within the Edmonton/Calgary corridor and sites are still being selected. Several of the MAC II members were interested in the location of the wells.

A draft Code of Practice (COP) has been developed and AENV wants to undertake stakeholder consultation in May. This would include posting the COP to the web for public comment. Overall, this initiative is behind schedule.

A report on baseline water well testing is expected shortly from the University of Calgary. Work continues on promoting the beneficial use of non-saline water although work on this is currently behind schedule. AENV anticipates providing updates to the MAC II in the fall.

AENV continues its work with other partners, including the Water Well Drillers Association, to deliver the water well education program. About ten workshops were held last quarter and another seven workshops are scheduled for April. The response has been positive. The workshops are hosted by the counties who are also responsible for promoting them in the community.

A MAC II member raised the concern that industry was not appropriately determining the location of the Base of Groundwater Protection (BGWP), noting one case where he understood a company fractured a CBM well with methanol above the BGWP. The MAC II member wanted to know what steps were being taken to ensure industry comply with the requirements.

**ACTION:**

- *Bob Willard will provide a brief description of the ERCB process to monitor and enforce the requirements governing fracture operations above BGWP at the next MAC II meeting updating, if necessary, the information provided to MAC II.*

**Update from Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) – Bob Willard**

Bob advised work continues on the recommendations being led by ERCB. Bob noted the recent appointment of Dan McFadyen as Chair and three new Board members. Areas the new Board are focusing on include being more responsive to landowners and changing with the times. This should fit well with several of MAC's recommendations. An example of this is hiring additional ERCB field staff to monitor developments and ensure enforcement of regulations.

**Update from Sustainable Resource Development – Noel St. Jean**

Noel advised that SRD has a new Minister and Deputy Minister.. The Integrated Land Management (ILM) is complete and will be linked to the Land Use Framework (LUF). A draft operational plan is currently under review by their Deputy Minister.

Work continues on some individual projects e.g. the development of the Kakwa-Compton Access Management Plan. SRD is also working on development of a project to highlight existing ILM and LUF initiatives in an area north central of Alberta where there has already been some CBM development in the Mannville zone. A Terms of Reference has been developed and SRD is talking to industry in the area about the project. SRD can't provide details at this point but hopes to have more specific information to share with the MAC II at the next meeting.

A MAC II member asked if any work had been done on developing a pilot program in shallower zones where the environmental footprint from gas development tends to be greater. Noel said the Mannville project being investigated includes both horizontal and vertical wells at different depths. SRD did look at the Rumsey area but decided against initiating a project there as there would be restrictions on what they could do.

The ERCB undertook two CBM pilot projects in Carstairs and Aberdeen and wanted to undertake a pilot project involving shallow, non-CBM wells in the Eastern Slopes but found the public wanted the LUF principles and policies in place before they would support such an initiative. The ERCB will revisit the matter once the LUF is complete.

The SRD has finalized new criteria on reclamation in forestry areas. A forum focussing on fescue in the Foothills is being planned for the next few months.

**ACTION**

- *Once available, Noel will provide details of the forum to Karen to share with the MAC II.*

**Public Update Report – Sari Shernofsky**

Sari shared with the MAC II her professional background and participation in the MAC and MAC II processes. As with last year's update report, non-government members were surveyed to provide feedback on the process in the second year. There is still an opportunity for MAC II members to provide their input although comments need to be provided to Karen no later than April 18. Once changes have been incorporated, the MAC II will receive the final draft for comment.

**ACTION**

- *MAC II members can provide further comments to Karen by April 18.*
- *The MAC II will be sent a copy of the final report prior to its public release.*

Sari undertook a page by page review of the draft update report and noted MAC II comments for changes or clarification. A MAC II member asked for the names of individuals on the AENV Science Review Panel.

**ACTION**

- *David McKenna will provide Karen with the names of the Science Review Panel members to be shared with the MAC II.*

**Other Issues**

Mary Griffiths provided an update on the Shallow Fracture Review Committee who met on April 10. Mary raised the concern regarding the impacts of fracturing just below the BGWP but was advised that the issue is out-of-scope as the committee's mandate is to focus on impacts above the BGWP.

Bob Willard advised that the ERCB would be interested in hearing more about this concern and provided her with a contact name within the Board.

At the last meeting, some MAC II members asked if it was possible to reduce the amount of information they receive on the status of the Final Report recommendations. Karen reviewed the Action Plan and the Appendix. She recommended, for the third year review, the MAC II receive only the Action Plan (which contains detailed recommendation status updates for the committee members). At the final meeting, both the Action Plan and the Appendix (which provides a higher level status update for inclusion in the annual report) will be provided.

**DECISION**

- *The MAC II will receive the Action Plan document for the initial meetings for the third year review period and receive both the Action Plan and update Appendix only at the last meeting.*

The MAC II adjourned at 2:00 p.m.