

Meeting Minutes

Red Deer Room, Red Deer Lodge

June 7, 2004

9:30 to 2:45

In attendance:

Mike Ekelund (chair)	Department of Energy
Peter Watson (alternate chair)	Department of Environment
Jamie Wuite (alternate)	Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Phyllis Kobasiuk	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties
Gene Rawe	Alberta Beef Producers
Bob Willard	Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
Mary Griffiths	Alberta Environmental Network Society
Tom Nahirinak	Alberta Surface Rights Federation
Don Bester	Butte Action Committee/Rimbey & District Clean Air People
Deryl Hurl	Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
Mike Gatens	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers / Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas / Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Cam Cline	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers / Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas / Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Allen Wright (alternate)	The Coal Association of Canada
Brad Murray	Freehold Petroleum & Natural Gas Owners Association
Dave Bartesko (alternate)	Sustainable Resource Development
Gene Roach (facilitator)	Community Development
Karen Henderson (secretary)	Alberta Energy
Sharla Rauschning (presenter)	Alberta Energy
Rhonda Wehrhahn (presenter)	Alberta Energy
Tom Byrnes (observer)	Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
Nga de-la-Cruz (observer)	Alberta Environment
Dave Trew (presenter)	Alberta Environment
Rick Hyndman (observer)	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Mike Gallie (observer)	Butte Action Committee
Absent:	
Sharil Baumgardner	Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Committee

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting started at 9:30.

Review/Ratification of Documents

ACTION

The following documents were ratified by the Committee.

- *May 10 Minutes*

A copy of Mr. Belec's April 13, 2004 letter was provided to the members for information.

Issue Categorization Document

The issue categorization document will be amended as follows:

1. *NGC Specific* – If there is no existing team or process in place to address the issue e.g. a gap exists in existing regulations, the NGC working group will develop detailed, specific NGC recommendations for the MAC.
2. *NGC Specific* – An existing team or process is in place to address the issue. The working group will prepare an issue decision document for the MAC, recommending that the issue be referred to another existing team/organization. The MAC will review the document and determine the appropriate course of action e.g. if the team/organization should develop detailed, specific recommendations and provide the MAC with an update; or, if they should develop detailed, specific recommendations for MAC ratification; or if their feedback should be used by the working group to develop recommendations for the MAC.
3. *NGC general but strongly related* – There is no existing team or process in place to address the issue e.g. existing regulations fall short as to what is needed. The NGC working group will develop NGC recommendations for the MAC.
4. *NGC general but strongly related* – An existing team or process is in place to address the issue e.g. flaring and venting. The working group will prepare an issue decision document for the MAC, recommending that the issue be referred to another existing team/organization. The MAC will review the document and determine the appropriate course of action e.g. if the team/organization should develop detailed, specific recommendations and provide the MAC with an update; or, if they should develop detailed, specific recommendations for MAC ratification; or if their feedback should be used by the working group to develop recommendations for the MAC.
5. *General natural gas issue* - There is no existing team or process in place to address the issue. The NGC working group will develop recommendations or suggestions for the MAC.
6. *General natural gas issue* - An existing team or process is in place to address the issue e.g. noise. The working group will prepare an issue decision document for the MAC, recommending that the issue be referred to another existing team/organization. The MAC will review the document and determine the appropriate course of action e.g. if the team/organization should develop recommendations or suggestions and provide the MAC with an update; or, if they should develop recommendations or suggestions for MAC ratification; or, if their feedback should be used by the working group to develop recommendations for the MAC.

The working groups will also evaluate the importance or priority of each issue.

ACTION

- *Karen will provide an updated version of the issues categorization matrix to the working group Chairs.*

Orphan Wells Update

ACTION

- *A separate meeting, possibly including the EUB, Environment (including reclamation staff), the Orphan Well Board and interested MAC members will be scheduled to review well data. Alberta Energy will follow up with the EUB and Environment to arrange the meeting. MAC members will be advised accordingly.*

Information Sessions

Sharla provided an update on the Grande Prairie information session and also provided members with copies of NGC related correspondence and e-mails received by the department, feedback from several presentations Mike Ekelund has made to various community groups and issue summaries of the information sessions. A draft summary document of all of the information sessions is currently being prepared.

ACTION

- *MAC members received a copy of the draft information session summary on June 4. Comments and feedback are due to Karen Henderson within 5 working days i.e. June 11.*

Alberta Environment Letter

Peter Watson provided a copy of Minister Lorne Taylor's letter sent to Butte Action Committee. The Minister advised he would not currently consider a moratorium as NGC wells being drilled at this point provide valuable information about the province's geology and its hydrogeological characteristics. The Minister did advise projects involving the production of non-saline groundwater would be approved only for "short term" authorizations (maximum 2 year period) under the *Water Act*. After the two-year period has expired, the project proponent would be required to apply for a renewal and extension of the authorization and decisions on this process would include any changes in legislation or policy coming out as the result of the consultation process.

Surface/Air Issues Working Group (SAWG)

Dave Bartesko provided an update and indicated their next meeting will be on July 6. The Phase I review of issues is nearly complete. The Terms of Reference (ToR) has been reviewed and will reflect the MAC's direction regarding consensus. A small group has been established to prepare a draft report. The current draft list of twelve issues will be broken down into three categories – surface density, communications (e.g. regulatory, landowners, industry, government) and quality of life. A draft action plan has been developed and SAWG is to provide feedback by August 6. Meetings, facilitated by Gene Roach, have been scheduled for September 7-8, September 27-28 and October 5-6 (if necessary). The final draft is to be provided to the MAC by October 19th. The SAWG would like to refer the noise issue to the EUB for their consideration.

ACTION

- *For the next meeting, Dave Bartesko will prepare a one page decision document outlining the noise issue and the group/agency recommended for referral, for MAC consideration. The MAC decision will be recorded in the minutes at next month's meeting.*

- *The SAWG will reformat their issues into the matrix discussed at today's meeting.*
- *A status update on the working group's progress will be provided at the next MAC meeting.*
- *The working groups will examine the issues identified at the public information sessions.*

Water Issues Working Group

Dave Trew advised they have prepared a very preliminary draft of the issues categorization and the review of their ToR is complete. If working group members cannot reach consensus on a particular recommendation, dissenting views will be noted for inclusion into a balanced statement for the report to the MAC. Their target date to have draft recommendations to the MAC is October 1, although this timeline will be reviewed at their next meeting.

ACTION

- *Dave Trew will reformat their issues into the matrix discussed at today's meeting.*
- *A status update on the working group's progress will be provided at the next MAC meeting.*
- *The working groups will examine the issues identified at the public information sessions.*

Expanded Land Tenure Working Group

Rhonda Wehrhahn provided an update on the first meeting of Land Tenure, expanded to include representation from the SAWG. There were 23 participants, equally representing the two groups. At their June 16 meeting, they will revisit their issues categorization, based on changes made to the matrix at today's meeting. They will report directly back to the MAC with their final recommendations.

ACTION

- *Rhonda Wehrhahn will reformat their issues into the matrix discussed at today's meeting.*
- *A status update on the working group's progress will be provided at the next MAC meeting.*
- *The working groups will examine the issues identified at the public information sessions.*

Royalty Working Group

The Chair was unable to attend the meeting, so Karen Henderson advised that the Royalty Working Group continues to collect and analyze economic information provided by industry.

ACTION

- *A status update on the working group's progress will be provided at the next MAC meeting.*
- *The working groups will examine the issues identified at the public information sessions.*

Referral of NGC Issues to Other Groups

Mike Ekelund asked the MAC for direction on how issues referred to another group or agency should be handled. The issue and subsequent recommendations could be handed off to another group/agency in its entirety, or the recommendations could come back to the MAC for inclusion into their recommendations to government.

ACTION

- *When a working group decides to refer an issue to another group or agency, they must prepare a decision document outlining their recommendation and preferred approach*

and present it to the MAC. The MAC will determine the best approach for handling the issue. Each issue will be evaluated on it's own merits.

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) has the expertise to address the issue of flaring and venting and has a process already in place to move recommendations forward. Further to MAC's recommendation, CASA has agreed to manage the issue in its entirety and provide a status update to the MAC in the fall.

Timelines and Development of Final Report

Timelines for completion of work by November 2004 are demanding. No commitment has been made for additional opportunities for public feedback in the fall, but some MAC members expressed interest in this option and this may impact the timelines. Feedback may take the form of further information sessions, a web-based public questionnaire or other options.

ACTION

- *At the July 12 meeting, MAC members will*
 - *decide if additional public feedback in the fall should occur and if so, how the feedback will be obtained.*
 - *Review deadlines to determine if changes to timelines are necessary.*
 - *be advised of the dates for 2 additional MAC meetings for the last week of October and early November (a meeting for November 1 was previously scheduled).*
 - *determine a report style for use by the working groups.*

Scheduling Speakers

For future meetings, MAC's expectations for invited speakers should be made clear in advance of the presentation. This could include establishing the purpose of the presentation, MAC expectations, what they want to hear about and what they don't.

ACTION

- *Karen will provide criteria for any future speakers and ask for a copy of their presentation in advance of the MAC meeting.*

June 21-23 CBM Symposium

Both Mike Ekelund and Larry Charach are scheduled to speak on the NGC consultation at the symposium, to be held in Calgary.

ACTION

- *Mike Ekelund will follow up with conference organizers to see if complimentary passes would be available for the two MAC members that expressed interest in attending.*

Next Meeting (9:30 July 12, Red Deer Lodge)

Future Meetings

August 16
September 13
October 4
November 1
December 6 (if required)