

# Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Board of Directors Meeting



April 12, 2022  
Zoom Conferencing

## In attendance:

### CASA Board Directors and Alternates:

Alison Miller, Petroleum Products  
Amber Link, Local Government  
Andria Panidisz, Oil and Gas Large Producers  
Ann Baran, NGO Rural  
Brent Korobanik, Mining  
Craig Werner, Forestry  
Dan Moore, Forestry  
David Spink, NGO Urban  
Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake, Samson Cree Nation  
Jamie Curran, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Jim Hackett, Utilities

Leigh Allard, NGO Health  
Martin Van Olst, Federal Government  
Randy Angle, NGO Rural  
Rich Smith, Agriculture  
Rob Hoffman, Petroleum Products  
Ruth Yanor, NGO Industrial  
Shane Lamden, Chemical Manufacturers  
Andre Asselin, CASA Executive Director

### CASA Staff:

Alec Carrigy, Katie Duffett, Anuja Hoddinott, Jacqueline Noga

### Guests:

Bob Myrick, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Crystal Parrell, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Karen Ritchie, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Karla Reesor, Airsheds Council  
Martina Krieger, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Randy Dobko, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Rhonda-Lee Curran, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Rob Bioletti, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Sheila Lucas, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Yayne-abeba Aklilu Alberta Environment and Parks

### Regrets:

Amber Link, Local Government  
Bev Yee, Provincial Government – Environment  
Bill Calder, NGO Urban  
David Lawlor, Alternate Energy  
Don McCrimmon, Oil and Gas Large Producers  
Mary Onukem, Métis Settlements General  
Council  
Rob Beleutz, Mining

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**Executive Summary**

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The board approved the Impacts of Reduced Transportation on Air Quality due to COVID-19 (IRTAQ) Project Team's final report, including recommendations and communications plan. The board thanked the IRTAQ team for its work and disbanded the team.

At the December 2021 meeting, the board struck the Dust Management Working Group with the intent of having an extended call for members and that the group would not be convened for its first meeting until the IRTAQ team was disbanded. The Dust Management Working Group will convene its first meeting in the coming weeks.

The Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Recorder (ROVER) III Project Team is planning for the second and final data collection field season this summer. Permits for data were submitted and a schedule is being developed with Alberta Transportation. Access to vehicle data from Service Alberta has been attained and the contractor has begun analyzing the data collected in 2020.

The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) Project Team is reassessing its ability to meet the objectives of the project in the current timelines. Next steps regarding approving changes to the project charter are expected in the coming weeks.

The next CASA board meeting will be September 15, 2022, and a field tour is tentatively planned for September 14, subject to the board's interest in meeting in person due to the pandemic.

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**Meeting Summary**

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Andre Asselin convened the business meeting at 9:31 a.m.

## **1 Administration**

### **1.1 Convene Business Meeting, Introductions, and Approve Agenda**

Participants were welcomed to CASA’s 106th general business meeting, which began immediately following the 2022 AGM.

A supplementary package was distributed the week prior to the meeting to reflect an updated agenda that changed a formal presentation from the CAAQS Project Team to a written update. The package also included the IRTAQ team’s final deliverables.

#### **Discussion:**

- There was a request to include “IRTAQ” in the list of acronyms in the board package.

***Decision: The updated agenda was approved by consensus.***

### **1.2 Review Actions from the December 7, 2021 Board Meeting**

A written update was provided on the only action from the December 7, 2021 meeting.

There was no discussion.

### **1.3 Meeting Summary from the December 7, 2021 Board Meeting**

The meeting summary was included in the package. No edits were submitted to staff in advance of the meeting and there was no discussion on this item.

*Note: minor clarifying edits and a request to remove attribution were submitted after the summary was approved and non-substantive edits were incorporated into the final version.*

***Decision: The board approved the revised summary of the December 7, 2021 meeting by consensus and the summary will be posted to the website.***

## 1.4 Future board meeting formats

In September 2021, the board wanted the opportunity to discuss returning to in-person meetings prior to going ahead with it. At the time the briefing package was written, it seemed possible that the next meeting could be planned to be in-person. Staff have venues booked for meetings for the rest of the year, but the meetings can always be transitioned to remote. This is an opportunity for the board to discuss whether the next meeting and field tour should occur in-person.

### Discussion:

- There is a new sub-variant that is spreading throughout Alberta, and we need to maintain awareness of the current COVID-19 situation as we get closer to the date.
- There is a lot of interest in getting back to meeting in-person, but we need to continue to monitor the situation closely.
- Some organizations have restrictions on whether they can attend these types of multi-stakeholder meetings in person, though a few noted they did not have restrictions to in-person meetings.

The viability of meeting in-person will be determined by the executive committee closer to the September 14 field tour and September 15 board meeting, which would be held in Calgary at the McDougall Centre.

## 2 Impacts of Reduced Transportation on Air Quality in Alberta Associated with COVID-19 (IRTAQ) Project Team

The IRTAQ Project Team prepared its final deliverables and sought the board's approval. The project idea was brought forward to the CASA board in June 2020, in reaction to noticeable reductions in daily transportation volumes due to public health restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19 but also to investigate potential reductions in industrial activity as well. The scope was later refined to remove industrial activity and to focus on transportation broadly, as opposed to solely consumer transportation.

The goal of the project was to develop messaging that links potential changes in air quality due to measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The intended outcome was that the messages generate provincial awareness about the impacts of reduced transportation emissions on air quality, and to identify some actions that Albertans can undertake to improve air quality moving forward.

The team used data from AEP to compare ambient air quality and traffic counts during times when public health restrictions were in place due to COVID-19 to the same period in prior years when there were no restrictions. This information is in the team's summary report and the associated technical appendices.

The main deliverable of the project was the key messages, and the communications plan provides the key messages, guidance on delivering the messages, as well as target audiences and possible partners to deliver messages to those audiences. A virtual workshop was held in

February 2022 to gather input on the messages, identify potential partners to distribute messages and audiences to receive the messages, and to raise awareness about the project and messages developed.

The final key messages are in the communications plan. There are two sets of key messages: 1) general takeaways from the study and 2) actions Albertans can take to improve air quality. The latter involves actions for government, individuals, and organizations, as well as shared actions for everyone to undertake. Some example key messages were shown in the presentation.

The project team developed four recommendations and associated performance measures. The first recommendation related to CASA providing the key messages and guidance on delivering messages to stakeholders. The second is for stakeholders and partners to deliver the messages through their networks. The third is for AEP to prepare the analysis completed for the summary report for peer reviewed publication. The final recommendation was for monitoring organizations in Alberta to conduct roadside ambient air monitoring and compare the values measured to those from nearby neighborhood scale stations. The performance measures provide timelines for these recommendations, except for the second recommendation, the performance measures also aim to gather information on the audiences reached with the key messages, how, etc., where available.

The team discussed successes and challenges of the project. Their evaluation focused on the benefits and drawbacks of remote vs. in-person meetings, limitations of the data available and analyses completed, and the challenges of an expedited process. Considerations for future projects may include an evaluation of the need for appropriate resources to complete expedited projects, a need for enhanced facilitation tools and techniques for remote meetings, and an evaluation of how the CASA process can be expedited.

The team requested three decisions: to approve the final report, to approve the communications plan, and to disband the IRTAQ project team.

#### **Discussion:**

- **Q:** How does this work align with the goals and mandate of CASA?
- **A:** CASA has a broad scope in terms of addressing air quality issues including non-point sources; the goal here was to provide stakeholders, rights holders, and decision makers with informed guidance on how they can reduce emissions from transportation, one type of non-point source.
- We need more involvement from the consumer transportation and health sectors.
  - Alberta Health (AH) provided feedback on draft versions of the summary report and final report. An Alberta Health Services (AHS) representative was cc'd on team emails and came to a few team meetings. AH and AHS also attended the workshop and provided feedback on the key messages and potential audiences for the messages.
  - While the lack of transportation sector representation on the project team was a gap, AMA and AMTA attended the workshop to provide input on the key messages and audiences.

- The focus of this work was not solely on consumer transportation but on all forms of traffic.

***Decision: The IRTAQ Final Report was approved by the board by consensus.***

***Decision: The IRTAQ Communications Plan was approved by the board by consensus.***

***Decision: The IRTAQ Project Team has been disbanded.***

The board congratulated the team for developing a great product and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to completing this project.

### 3 Information Reports and Opportunity for Questions

#### 3.1 Executive Director's Report

- **Q:** The GRC was intended to review the strategic planning work. How will that move forward?
- **A:** There are a lot of moving pieces with strategic planning and the GRC's work. A plan to get this work going again will be developed and presented at the next executive committee meeting before it comes to the board.

#### 3.2 ROVER III Project Team.

No discussion on this update.

#### 3.3 Dust Management Working Group

A call for members to join this working group was issued in March 2022. Several names have been gathered to date and the deadline for sectors to submit any outstanding names to Anuja is by the end of today. It is anticipated that the first working group meeting will be held in May.

- **Q:** Do we have any municipal representation on the working group?
- **A:** Yes, Amber Link from RMA has submitted her name to join the group and Alberta Municipalities has been informed that this project may be of interest to them.

#### 3.4 Government of Alberta air update

No discussion on this update.

#### 3.5 Other sector updates

No discussion on this update.

#### 3.6 CAAQS Project Team Update

No discussion on this update.

## 4 New/Other Business

### **Discussion:**

- A future board meeting discussion needs to address how much work CASA's project managers are taking on when facilitating teams. While team members certainly appreciate the efforts made by staff to take the first cut at drafting materials for the team to review, project team members should be reminded that they have responsibility to take on work as been the norm with past CASA teams.
  - This is an important point raised. However, it has been a challenge for team members to take on more responsibilities because of our virtual reality.

Andre provided a few final reminders:

- Call for members to join the Dust Management Working Group closes today. Please submit any names to Anuja by the end of today.
- The post-meeting evaluation survey will be sent out later today.

Andre thanked the staff, team members, and board members for their contributions to the organization.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on September 15, 2022 with a tentative field tour planned for September 14. Andre noted that meeting could be in person, but a decision will be made closer to the meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

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