



## **CASA Board of Directors Meeting September 12, 2019, Edmonton, Alberta**

### **In attendance:**

#### **CASA Board Members and Alternates:**

Ann Baran, NGO Rural	Randy Angle, NGO Rural
Ahmed Idriss, Utilities	Rich Smith, Agriculture
Benjamin Israel, NGO Industrial	Rick Blackwood, Provincial Government – Environment
Bill Calder, NGO Urban	Rob Hoffman, Petroleum Products
Don McCrimmon, Oil and Gas Large Producers	Rob Beleutz, Mining
Humphrey Banack, Agriculture	Ruth Yanor, NGO Industrial
Jim Hackett, Utilities	Andre Asselin, CASA Executive Director
Kathy Rooyakkers, Local Government – Rural	
Keith Murray, Forestry	
Martin Van Olst, Federal Government	

#### **CASA Secretariat:**

Matthew Dance, Katie Duffett, Lauren Hall, Cara McInnis, Anuja Ramgoolam, Kim Sanderson

#### **Guests:**

Sharon Willianen, Jenna Curtis, Marilea Pattison-Perry, Randy Dobko; Alberta Environment and Parks

#### **Presenters:**

Ann Baran and Rhonda Lee Curran, *ROVER III Project Team Update* (Item 2)  
Andre Asselin, *Multi-year Strategic Plan* (Item 3)  
Jim Hackett, *ATCO's Coal to Gas Conversions* (Item 4)  
Gary Redmond, *Alberta Airsheds Council* (Item 6)

#### **Regrets:**

Alison Miller, Petroleum Products	Leigh Allard, NGO Health
Bev Yee, Provincial Government – Environment	Mary Onukem, Indigenous - Métis
David Lawlor, Alternate Energy	
Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake, Samson Cree Nation	
James Baldwin, Chemical Manufacturers	



**Clean Air Strategic Alliance  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 12, 2019**

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**Executive Summary**

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This board meeting was convened immediately following the annual general meeting. The board welcomed two new alternate members: Don McCrimmon representing Oil and Gas Large Producers, and Randy Angle representing NGO Rural.

The ROVER III project team presented an update on its work. Although the project is fully funded, events outside the team's control have resulted in unavoidable delays in gathering data. The contractor is working to address the technology problem and has assured CASA that equipment will be ready for a summer 2020 field season. Delays related to maintenance of the Service Alberta vehicle registration database should also be resolved by then. Data for diesel, heavy-duty, and passenger vehicles will be collected in five municipalities: Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary.

Based on board discussions at the 2018 strategic planning sessions, the secretariat has prepared an initial draft plan for 2019–2022. The proposed path forward will involve gathering and incorporating feedback from the board, with subsequent discussion by the executive prior to the next board meeting. Depending on feedback received, the aim is to have the plan approved at the December board meeting.

The board received a very informative presentation on ATCO's conversions of its Battle River and Sheerness generating stations from coal to gas. These conversions are reducing air emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, mercury, and greenhouse gases, as well as providing other social and economic benefits.

The Alberta Airsheds Council presented an overview of where Airsheds fit in the overall air management system of Alberta and details on their roles and operations, which include air quality monitoring; education, outreach and engagement; and air quality management.

A number of written updates were also provided to the board, as is the usual practice.

The next CASA board meeting will be in Edmonton on December 13, 2019 with the 25-year celebration event the previous night.

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**Meeting Summary**

Bill Calder convened the business meeting at 9:54 a.m.

## 1 Administration

### 1.1 Convene Meeting and Approve Agenda

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly reviewed the agenda. It was suggested that a longer discussion be held on the draft strategic plan, but the chair noted that there will be ample opportunity for board members to provide feedback in writing following this meeting. It was agreed to discuss the GoA update in the morning. With that amendment, the agenda was approved.

### 1.2 Actions from December 13, 2018 Board Meeting

Actions 1 through 5 are complete and item 6 is in progress, as noted in the briefing package.

### 1.3 Summary of Previous Meeting

*Decision: The board approved the summary of the December 13, 2018 board meeting.*

## 2 ROVER III Project Team

Ann Baran and Rhonda Lee Curran presented an update on the work of the ROVER III project team, which was initiated in May 2018 and is focusing on diesel and heavy-duty vehicles. Preferred and back-up data collection sites have been selected in five municipalities (Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary), and the sites will be moved each day within the municipality to enable data collection from a wide variety of vehicles. A contract is now in place with Opus Inspections Inc. for data collection, and required permit applications are underway. The project has been fully funded but timelines have been unavoidably delayed due to technology constraints on the part of the contractor and delays with Service Alberta's vehicle registration database. The field season is now planned for early summer 2020, which will coincide with the availability of better technology for NO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> data collection.

### Discussion

- Have any budget issues arisen due to time overruns?
  - No. Opus has been cooperative and apologetic about the technology problems.
- Given the delay, has the team considered if there may be other questions that could be answered with the project rather than wait for technology that may or may not work?
  - We have been assured the technology will work and the project will be done. Our funders are aware of the situation. The equipment that Opus had been using did not collect NO<sub>2</sub> from higher emission stacks, so they were not aware of the problem that has arisen for this project. We also know that by early summer, circumstances could change with respect to our site selections and we may have to reassess those choices then.

- Opus is the only service provider in North America who does this specialized type of work. Despite some disappointments, they have assured us the technology will work, and there aren't really any alternatives anyway.
- Given the equipment challenges, will we have valid credible results in the end?
  - This company has a good reputation and a good research track record, and they have been open and transparent with us. We are confident the results will be credible.

The team was acknowledged for its perseverance and good work to date.

### 3 Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Based on board discussions at the sessions in 2018, the secretariat has prepared an initial draft plan. Andre Asselin presented background on CASA's strategic plans and described the process used to produce the current draft plan. He briefly reviewed the document and laid out the proposed path forward for the board to review it. The aim is to ask for approval at the December board meeting, depending on the comments received and whether further discussion is needed. The date on the plan is 2019–2022; some of the work has been undertaken this year even though the plan itself has not been formally approved.

#### Discussion

- The process for reviewing the draft plan and providing comments must be transparent. Is there a way for each of us to see comments that others have provided?
  - The intent is to compile all comments into a table without attribution, and then to insert those into a “tracked changes” version of the document for everyone to see. If the comments are editorial or relatively minor, they may not need much debate, but if they are more philosophical, we should discuss.
- The draft document reflects what came out of our discussions. The governance structure is key, along with work on a new funding model. What options are being considered with respect to funding?
  - We are looking at all aspects, both core and project funding. Other boards and agencies have quite different funding models, and CASA will need to be flexible and innovative to adapt to changes we know are coming.
  - Just because the GoA created an agency, as it did with CASA, does not mean that agency survives in perpetuity. The GoA has not done a good job of letting agencies go when their original work is done. The coming austerity period will apply across the board.
- Could CASA offer its services to another client in return for some core funding?
  - CASA needs to look at various options for a new funding model. There is a risk to calling everything a GoA project and to being funded so substantially by the GoA. CASA needs to demonstrate our value to GoA and other stakeholders.
- The feedback template should include an area for cross-cutting and broad comments that apply to more than just a specific sentence or paragraph. A column for rationale for the comments would also be helpful.

## 4 ATCO's Coal to Gas Conversions

Jim Hackett presented an overview of ATCO's work to date on coal to gas conversions, focusing on the Battle River and Sheerness generating stations. He described the differences between a coal-fired process and a gas-fired process and what a coal to gas conversion entails. Among other things, with gas, loads can be altered more quickly than with coal. He noted the environmental benefits of such conversions, which include substantial reductions in emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, mercury, and greenhouse gases. Economic and social benefits also accrue from these conversions, but regulatory challenges remain with respect to federal and provincial policy uncertainty. Nevertheless, considerable work has been completed and is underway and planned to increase gas firing and dual fuel capability on ATCO's coal-fired fleet. He remarked that CASA's work that helped set a NO<sub>x</sub> emissions standard for these converted units was critical to this process and thanked the board for delivering that high-priority work.

### Discussion

- Where are the other generators at with conversions?
  - Capital Power recently announced its plans for Genesee and TransAlta is also doing some work. I believe all have some conversions in progress.
- What is the rationale for having dual capability for burning both coal and gas?
  - Dual capability helps to manage the market situation in Alberta, given the uncertainty in direction with respect to electricity generation and climate change.

## 5 GoA Information Update

Board members expressed their appreciation to GoA staff for providing such a thorough and helpful summary.

*Q: Have there been any further developments regarding the Industrial Air Emissions Management Plan (IAEMP)?*

A: IAEMP is part of the Air Monitoring Directive. Work is underway to get industrial submissions and a number of facilities will be reporting by the end of the calendar year. Those who need extensions are working with EPEA directors in their regions.

*Comment: It would be useful to use the CASA process to engage with AEP on the next round of discussions regarding the CAAQS rather than see those discussions limited to government.*

**Jim Hackett in the chair.**

## 6 Alberta Airsheds Council

Gary Redmond, executive director of the Alberta Capital Airshed and the West Central Airshed Society presented an update on the work of the Alberta Airsheds Council. He described where Airsheds fit in the overall air management system of Alberta and provided details on their roles and operations, which include air quality monitoring; education, outreach and engagement; and air quality management. Airsheds are also engaged in citizen science. Revenue sources for the Airsheds vary but include industry, the GoA, municipalities, and academia. The AAC itself

undertakes education and outreach and is continuing to build partnerships. He concluded with an update on current work being done by individual Airsheds.

### Discussion

- Could you talk more about education and outreach that is not aimed at schools?
  - To my knowledge, all airsheds get involved in community events and in some cases, they initiate things such as Clean Air Day events. We are building a multi-faceted approach to outreach, given that about one-third of the population is considered vulnerable to air quality issues. Different messages can be developed for different audiences.
- Have you seen more interest in citizen science?
  - Yes. We are exploring different technologies now and more are in development. Generally, people are saying they want to be more engaged. If there is enough of this sort of activity, we can start to get meaningful data.
- What happens to data collected through citizen science?
  - It doesn't have the same status as monitoring data and could not be used to shut down a facility, for example. But it could perhaps be used to suggest that continuous monitoring is needed. Right now, it is purely for educational purposes.

## 7 Information Reports

The following reports were provided in the briefing package as information:

- GoA Update
- Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee
- Ambient Air Quality Objectives Project Team
- Electricity Framework Review Project Team
- Emissions Trading Discussion
- Executive Director's Report
- AAQO Project Team Member List
- ROVER III Project Team Member List
- EFR Project Team Member List
- Ad hoc Governance Review Committee Member List

Additional details were noted for three items:

**The Governance Review Committee** met on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and the intent is to have draft terms of reference and possibly a draft work plan for the board to review at the December meeting. The work could take a full year to complete, and the committee will provide regular orientations to the board with opportunity for input.

Regarding the **Emissions Trading Discussion**, this item may come back to the board depending on the discussion that occurs. Regardless, there will be a report to the board. The discussion seeks to determine if there is a role for CASA and, if so, how it might be undertaken.

Regarding the **Executive Director's Report**, a typo was noted on page 2, paragraph 4, line 1. Andre clarified that a variety of topics will be featured in any new CASA videos.



## 8 New or Other Business

There was no new or other business.

## 9 Evaluation Forms

Members were asked to complete meeting evaluation forms for review by the executive. Completed evaluation forms are also posted on the CASA website.

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The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

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No action items arose from this meeting.