

Clean Air Strategic Alliance Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2024

Microsoft Teams Conferencing



In attendance:

CASA Board Directors and Alternates:

Amber Link, Local Government – Rural

Ann Baran, NGO – Rural

Brent Korobanik, Mining

Dan Moore, Forestry

David Spink, NGO – Urban

Don McCrimmon, Oil and Gas Large Producers

Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake, Samson Cree Nation

Leigh Allard, NGO – Health

Mark McGillivray, Alternate Energy

Martin Van Olst, Federal Government

Melody Garner-Skiba, Agriculture

Michelle Belisle, Petroleum Products

Patrick McDonald, Provincial Government –
Government

Rob Hoffman, Petroleum Products

Ruth Yanor, NGO – Industrial

Shane Lamden, Chemical Manufacturers

Andre Asselin, CASA Executive Director

CASA Staff:

Alec Carrigy, Anuja Hoddinott, Katie Duffett

Guests:

Bailey Doepker, Environment and Protected Areas

Crystal Parrell, Environment and Protected Areas

Curt Horning, Environment and Protected Areas

Héline Chow, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Jen Silverthorn, City of Calgary

Karla Reesor, Peace River Area Monitoring Program

Kylie Hill, Alberta Municipalities

Michelle Meyer, International Council on Clean Transportation

Michael Spiess, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Sharon Willianen, Environment and Protected Areas

Yoann Bernard, International Council on Clean Transportation

Presenters:

Michelle Meyer, *Presentation on International Council on Clean Transportation's updated modelling (Item 2)*

Regrets:

Mary Onukem, Métis Settlements General Council

David Lawlor, Alternate Energy

Naomi Tercier, Mining

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Executive Summary

Sherri Wilson has resigned as the board director representing EPA, which also ends her term as President of CASA. Assistant Deputy Minister of Air, Climate and Clean Technology Patrick McDonald was appointed as the director representing EPA and Executive Director Rob Hamaliuk was appointed as the alternate. The Government sector is currently finalizing their selection of representative for the executive committee. The executive committee will then select the next CASA President. Rob Hoffman is the new vice-president representing the Industry sector group, replacing Jim Hackett who has retired. Rob Beleutz has stepped down as the director representing the Mining sector and is replaced by Naomi Tercier. Melody Garner-Skiba has replaced Brad Dubeau as the Agriculture sector's director.

The board received an information presentation from the International Council on Clean Transportation's Compliance and Enforcement Team on updates to their modelling following the completion of the ROVER III project. The focus was on tampering rates of heavy-duty vehicles in Alberta, excess NO_x emissions from those vehicles, and estimates of the associated human health impacts. A recording of the presentation is available [here](#).

A series of information reports were provided and there was opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. The next meeting will be held in Edmonton on April 23 and 24 and will include the Performance Reporting System workshop and annual recognition event, in addition to the Annual General Meeting and board meeting.

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Meeting Summary

Rob Hoffman convened the business meeting at 9:47 a.m.

1 Convene meeting, introductions, and approve agenda

Participants were welcomed to the meeting.

Rob Hoffman chaired the meeting. Rob is the new vice-president representing the Industry sector group. He recognized the contributions of Jim Hackett who served as the VP for Industry on the executive committee since early 2019.

CASA recently received a letter from the Deputy Minister of Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), Sherri Wilson. She has resigned as the board director representing EPA, which also ends her term as President of CASA. She noted in her letter that air quality remains critical to the department and that the involvement of Assistant Deputy Minister Patrick McDonald is a further example of the importance of CASA's work.

The board thanked Sherri for her time served as President. With Patrick moving into the role of director for EPA, the new alternate is the Executive Director of the Air and Climate Policy Branch, Rob Hamaliuk. The Government sector is currently finalizing their selection of representative for the executive committee. The executive committee will then select the next CASA President.

Rob Beleutz has stepped down as the director representing the Mining sector and is replaced by Naomi Tercier. She is the Director of Sales and Distribution, Western Region, with Graymont and is also a director with the Alberta Chamber of Resources.

Jim Hackett has retired and has stepped away from CASA. He was involved with both CASA and the Alberta Water Council for at least 14 years, with several years as the vice president for Industry on CASA's executive committee.

Melody Garner-Skiba, with the Intensive Livestock Working Group, has replaced Brad Dubeau as the Agriculture sector director.

The draft agenda was included in the meeting package. There were no changes to the agenda.

Decision: The agenda was approved by consensus.

2 Information presentation on International Council on Clean Transportation's Updated Modelling

A presentation was provided by Michelle Meyer, a researcher with the International Council on Clean Transportation's (ICCT) Compliance and Enforcement Team on updates to their modelling following the completion of the ROVER III project. The ICCT used the data collected during the ROVER III project to update the modelling inputs they used for their 2022 project on the impacts of vehicle emission control tampering in Canada.

A recording of the presentation is on CASA's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRsFlKYBnso>

The study's results include:

- the estimated prevalence of tampered or malfunctioning heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) in Alberta by vehicle model year,
- excess NO_x emissions from tampered Alberta HDVs, and
- estimated health impacts of the excess emissions, calculated using the value of statistical life metric through 2035.

Tampering or malfunction rates are derived by comparing the Alberta ROVER III data with long-term remote sensing data from Colorado, and excess NO_x and health impacts are modeled using ICCT's Roadmap and FATE models. The study highlights the substantial impact of tampered or malfunctioning heavy-duty vehicles in Alberta, which are higher than projected in the ICCT's 2022 study on the modelled impacts of heavy-duty vehicle emission control tampering in Canada.

These results offer evidence to inform targeted policy recommendations aimed at reducing HDV emissions from vehicles with tampered or malfunctioning emission controls and support Alberta's efforts to achieve air quality standards and objectives and emissions reduction goals.

Discussion

- **Q:** Regarding ultrafine particulate matter, there was a recent study published that looked at how different management scenarios would reduce premature mortality from these pollutants. Diesel engines are a significant source of ultrafine particulates. You presented NO_x information, but did the remote sensing also collect data on ultrafine particulates, which are the most harmful part of diesel emissions?
 - **A:** The focus of this study was on NO_x emissions but UV smoke was measured, which is a proxy for particulate matter. It is not the best way to measure it. Additionally, the health modelling for ultrafine particulates is not as robust as it is for PM_{2.5}, for example. We hope to see further development in that area moving forward.
- **Q:** Have you taken into consideration the number of vehicles that were retired in that period?
 - **A:** That is part of ICCT's roadmap model; there are built in assumptions using vehicle survival curves, which take into consideration the age of the vehicles and when they will be retired.

- **Q:** You mentioned that your model showed that there would be over \$8 billion dollars of health damages over the next ten years because of tampering. Are those national or provincial?
 - **A:** They are for Alberta.
- **Q:** How is Alberta doing relative to other jurisdictions in Canada with regards to tampering regulation or legislation?
 - **A:** Many provinces have legislation or inspection and maintenance programs that include emission controls, but Alberta does not. Those could account for some of the higher emissions compared to other parts of Canada.
- **Q:** Is there a greater density of tampering near population centres?
 - **A:** This was not included in ICCT's work, but in Opus' work for the ROVER III project team, they found more high emitters in the Edmonton-Calgary corridor, primarily dump trucks. The report from Opus has some information comparing emissions between the data collection sites. The report is available at: [https://www.casahome.org/uploads/source/ROVER_III_Opus_Report-Final_Nov_2023_\(amended\)_v.2.pdf](https://www.casahome.org/uploads/source/ROVER_III_Opus_Report-Final_Nov_2023_(amended)_v.2.pdf)
- **Q:** There are other provinces doing inspection and maintenance. Can you give examples of other provinces and where those regulations or guidance or policies reside?
 - **A:** The 2022 study has more information on regulations and inspection and maintenance programs in Canada: <https://theicct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/hdv-emissions-tampering-can-mar22.pdf>. (*Post-meeting note: the study lists British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec as provinces with inspection and maintenance programs.*)
- **Q:** What emissions could be attributed to unidentified vehicles?
 - **A:** We focused on vehicles where there was information since we needed a model year. But we still used the emissions data and emission factors to make assumptions about the entire fleet. Although the information was not part of developing emission factors or the tampering and malfunction rate, they are still accounted for in the modelling.
- The US EPA has found that many defeat devices were imported into the US from Canada: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edwa/pr/four-business-owners-indicted-smuggling-and-illegally-importing-tens-millions-dollars>
- How are the modelling results used?
 - We rely on our partners who are involved in policy making. They would use the research evidence to support policy development or advocacy.

Andre thanked ICCT for the funding they contributed to the ROVER III project. Questions about ICCT or the ROVER series of projects can be directed to Katie (kduffett@awc-casa.ca).

3 Administration

3.1 Meeting summary from the September 12, 2024, Board Meeting

Minor clarifying edits were submitted to staff. These were incorporated in a revised version of the summary which was included in the meeting package.

There were no questions or comments.

Decision: The board approved the summary of the September 12, 2024, board meeting by consensus and the summary will be posted to the website.

3.2 Review actions from the September 12, 2024, Board Meeting

A written update on the September actions was included in the meeting package.

There were no questions or comments.

3.3 Approve the 2025 core budget

The proposed 2025 core budget and its supporting assumptions were included in the meeting package. The executive committee reviewed the budget in detail at their meeting last month.

Discussion

- CASA is expected to fund core operations using the deferred contributions (unspent funds) from previous grants.
- **Q:** Is the surplus staying with CASA and being used for projects? It isn't going back to GoA?
 - **A:** Technically, those unspent funds from previous years are still the GoA's money and they get to decide what to do with it. The expectation moving forward is that the surplus funds will be used to fund core operations up to the level in our grant of \$525,000. We would need to work with GoA to make a request to allocate some of that funding to a specific project, which is what happened with ROVER III and the Dust projects.
 - Another option for when funding is unavailable is that project team members can do work through subcommittees. The work of these team members could be paid for using stakeholder support or a similar line item.
 - In the past, teams have depended on in kind contributions from board members and that option is still available. If we use the grant surplus for operations over the next year as directed, there will not be budget available for projects without seeking other funding sources.
 - Could consultants be paid from the surplus?
 - The funds belong to GoA. They want the funds to be used for core operations until March 2026.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 core budget by consensus.

3.4 Approve the 2025 operational plan

The board approves the operational plan for the coming year at the last meeting of each calendar year. The operational plan based on the existing workload being carried into the following year and identifies opportunities and timelines for new work as projects are completed. The meeting package includes details on the expected workload for 2025. The executive committee recommends that the board approve the draft 2025 operational plan.

Andre noted that an updated table will be circulated after the meeting as there was some missing updates around the Governance Review Committee, Performance Measures Committee, and the organizational performance evaluation.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 operational plan by consensus.

3.5 Approve the 2024-2027 Communications Strategy

This item is to approve the multi-year communications strategy. Several drafts of the plan have been reviewed and clarifying edits were submitted and incorporated into the current draft following the September meeting.

Discussion

- **Q:** How is the board involved in approving what the organization communicates?
 - **A:** Much of the communication that CASA does is around the work of the project teams. Teams develop communications plans, are approved by the board, and typically involve factsheets, key messages, and other tools as needed. We also host webinars on emerging or interesting air quality related topics that we record and make publicly available. Where appropriate, we connect with EPA communications, such as the Minister’s Office, to ensure that any messaging put out is consistent.
- **Q:** There is a lack of language connecting “collaboration” between the objectives and the performance measures.
 - **A:** There is an opportunity to look at this through the Performance Reporting System (PRS) work.
 - If this can be addressed through PRS, that is ok.

Decision: The board approved the 2024-2027 Communications Strategy by consensus.

3.6 Approve meeting dates for 2025

This item is to approve meeting dates and events in 2025. The executive committee is proposing the board meet three times again in 2025, on or about the same weeks as over the last few years.

There will be a few events happening in April at the QEII building in Edmonton: On April 23, a workshop to engage the board on the Performance Reporting System Committee’s work is expected to be held in person in the afternoon, along with the annual recognition event will be hosted in the evening. The AGM and board meeting will be held on April 24. In September, a field tour is being planned for September 10, the afternoon prior to the board meeting on September 11, both September events will be held in Calgary.

The proposed meeting dates were included in the meeting package. In-person meetings are preferred, but remote options to participate are available for all board meetings.

There was some discussion about the meeting dates, but it was noted that there will always be challenges trying to schedule meetings that will work for everyone, so the dates were approved as presented.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 meeting dates by consensus.

3.7 Appoint executive committee representatives

This item is to appoint the executive committee representatives for 2-year terms.

Rob Hoffman will replace Jim Hackett as the Industry caucus representative. Rob thanked Jim for his many years of service to CASA, including the past five years serving as the VP for the Industry caucus on the executive committee.

The Government sector is noted they need more time to determine their representative.

4 Information Reports and Opportunity for Questions

4.1 Executive Director's Report

An updated Executive Director's report was included in the supplementary package.

Discussion

- **Q:** Is the wind down fund still sufficiently large given recent inflation?
- **A:** We review whether the amount is appropriate every couple of years or as needed. The current amount is reasonable. AWC also has a significant wind down fund that would cover half of the liabilities. An NGO member noted that she had also not heard from the AEN in their traditional capacity of providing sector engagement support to the NGO caucus in quite a while.
 - Andre is looking forward to working with AB Lung to pick up that sector engagement role.

4.2 CASA Sector Updates (including the GoA update)

CASA sector updates were provided to staff in advance of the meeting. The document is on SharePoint and included in the package.

Discussion

- The GoA update is forthcoming. Questions on the update can be directed to Patrick who will send to the appropriate group.
- Many links in the industry updates are not active.
- For the chemical sector update – emissions intensity went down, but what were the actual emissions reductions?
 - **A:** Shane will check on those numbers.
- **Q:** Can some clarification be provided around right sized licences for the agriculture sector update?
 - **A:** For the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan review, one of the conversations is about potentially right sizing water licences. Water availability fluctuates based on rainfall, snowpack, etc. Flexibility is needed in licences to withdraw more or less water depending on how much snow or rainfall there is in any given year.
- **Q:** What does FITFIR stand for?

- **A:** It stands for first-in-time first-in-right. It is Alberta’s approach for allocating water on a seniority basis.
- **Q:** Are cities and industries not ahead of agriculture in water allocation priority?
 - **A:** Human consumption comes first. But there is some nuance – human consumption for drinking is different than watering lawns.

Action: The Government sector to provide their sector update.

Action: Shane to check emission reductions amounts in the sector update.

4.3 Best Practices Guide for Dust Management in Alberta Project Team

An update on the team was provided in the meeting package.

Discussion

- Andre thanked the City of Calgary for providing \$20,000 needed to get the project moving ahead again.
- Rural and urban municipalities are subject to dust issues. Hopefully this guide will help them manage those issues.

4.4 Understanding Vehicle Emission Control System Tampering in Alberta Working Group

An update on the team was provided in the meeting package.

Discussion

- 5 This is a continuation of the ROVER III project. There is a strong likelihood that tampering is a problem in Alberta and the task with this project is to gather additional information. There was one meeting already and another before the year ends. The terms of reference should be done in early 2025.
 - The working group is carefully managing the scope as there is a potential to create a large workload.

5.1 Performance Reporting System Committee Update

An update on the team was provided in the meeting package.

Discussion

- The committee is developing draft measures for the strategic plan, board, and staff. They are also developing some material for the April workshop.

5.2 AWC Update for CASA Board

The update was provided in the meeting package. A new project manager has been hired and will start in January 2025.

New/ Other Business

No new or other business was identified when the agenda was approved.

Evaluation forms for the meeting will be sent out electronically and a link posted in the chat; please fill them out as they help the executive committee and staff set up future meetings.

The next meeting will be held in Edmonton on April 23 and 24, 2025 and will include the PRS workshop, annual recognition event, and the AGM and board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The following action item(s) arose from the meeting:

Action: The Government sector to provide their sector update.

Action: Shane to check emission reductions amounts in the sector update.

The following decisions were made at this meeting:

Decision: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Decision: The board approved the summary of the September 12, 2024, board meeting by consensus and the summary will be posted to the website.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 core budget by consensus.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 operational plan by consensus.

Decision: The board approved the 2024-2027 Communications Strategy by consensus.

Decision: The board approved the 2025 meeting dates by consensus.