

BATTLE LAKE WATERSHED SYNERGY GROUP

<http://synergyalberta.ca/group/battle-lake-watershed-synergy-group>

A meeting of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group was held on Thursday Nov 2, 2017 at the Lakedell Ag. Centre (Main Hall) with Paul McLauchlin acting as Facilitator.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of Minutes (Sept 9, 2017 meeting)- Approved
- AER Updates
- Industry Updates
- Community Updates
- Next Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

In attendance were { 2 } residents, { 6 } industry representatives and government officials. (See the attached list.)

Review of Minutes:

Sept 9, 2017 meeting notes had been distributed and approved.

AER Update: Darcy Allen

The AER is working with the RCMP to investigate a break in at the Red Deer Field Centre that occurred in the early hours of October 30

<http://www.aer.ca/about-aer/media-centre/announcements/announcement-october-30-2017>

Amended Notice and Scheduling of Hearing

Proceeding ID 346 - Bashaw Oil Corp.

Proximity Critical Sour Oil Wells - 2.3 Kilometres East of Rocky Rapids

<http://www.aer.ca/applications-and-notices/notices/application-1842705-amended>

Clean Energy Technology Centre, 5400 - 24 Avenue, Drayton Valley, Alberta, on December 13, 2017, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Integrated Decision Approach – Participant Involvement

What is Participant Involvement?

"Participant involvement" is an umbrella term encompassing all interactions and communications between Albertans, indigenous people, operators, and the AER.

Go To <http://talk.aer.ca/> for complete information

The AER is implementing the Integrated Decision Approach across the organization. This will result in a single application for energy development projects. As a result of the changes to how operators apply for projects, the AER is considering changing engagement requirements to support this new approach. The AER will be collecting input across the province on potential new participant involvement requirements and processes for our new Integrated Decision Approach.

Operators are currently required to develop a participant involvement plan that considers those whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed application. This program must be developed and implemented before an application is filed. Program steps and information must include

- distributing the applicant's information package and the required AER publications;
- responding to questions and concerns;
- discussing options, alternatives, and mitigating measures; and
- seeking confirmation of nonobjection through cooperative efforts

Operators are also expected to be sensitive to the timing constraints on the public (e.g., trapper, planting, harvesting, and calving seasons, and statutory holidays).

The public is strongly encouraged to participate in ongoing issue identification, problem solving, and planning of local energy developments. The public is also expected to be sensitive to the timing constraints on the applicant.

Participant involvement does not end with the issuance of a licence; it must continue throughout the life of a project. Early involvement in informal discussions between Albertans, indigenous communities, and operators may lead to stronger project planning and mitigation of impacts.

You're invited! We need your help!

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is meeting with Albertans and indigenous communities across the province to understand how you want operators to engage with you about proposed energy development. Your feedback will help shape future conversations about energy development between the AER, operators, Albertans, and indigenous communities.

Please join us as we discuss changes to energy applications and how we can improve participant involvement requirements for the Integrated Decision Approach.

Sessions are a full day (9am-3pm) and will run in the following locations:

To register for an event near you go to <http://talk.aer.ca/register>

Sessions are a full day (9am-3pm) and will run in the following locations:

1. Rocky Mountain House - October 25th, 2017
2. Vulcan - November 2nd, 2017
3. Bonnyville - November 9th, 2017
4. Treaty 8 (in Edmonton) - November 14th, 2017
5. Fort McMurray - November 16th, 2017
6. Treaty 6 (in Edmonton) - November 22nd, 2017
7. Medicine Hat - November 28th, 2017
8. Treaty 7 (in Calgary) - December 5th, 2017
9. Calgary - December 6th, 2017
10. Whitecourt - December 12th, 2017
11. Grande Prairie - December 14th, 2017

Can't make it to a session? You still have an opportunity to have your say. Register on Talk AER Register <http://talk.aer.ca/register> on the "Talk AER" website and click the "Let's hear it" and "Map it out" tabs to contribute.

Call received by Ken Jenny from AER for survey out of Quebec, "How am I being served by the AER." Resident was hung up on (terminated conversation based on only owning 10 acres of land therefore survey did not apply). Why is AER sub-contracting service to company in Quebec? Impression was given that people with larger land ownerships opinions matter more.

Darcy's response: Survey is done twice per year. Set of questions are predetermined. Based on residents response another set of questions are given. Not sure why quantity of land was considered other than determining, urban vs rural dwelling for demographic purposes.

Kathy commented that government contracts are tendered out and granted based on lowest bid regardless of company location. GOA process.

Darcy stated that land ownership quantity should not have mattered in the context of the survey as far as the residents opinion was concerned other than to default to a different set of questions based on resident response. The surveys are not able to deter from the set questions.

Ken felt the questions seemed biased. Answer what they are trying to prove. Questions are very ambiguous.

Darcy advised residents have the option to not participate. Open ended questions are available at the end of survey. It is important for AER to receive feedback from the public positive or negative.

Ken Jenny asked what triggered the Hearing for Proceeding ID 346 - Bashaw Oil Corp?

Darcy responded that members of the public that filed statements of concern. The statements of concern were upheld; AER would like to review the application and make a determination on directly and adversely affected parties.

Kathy: There is a company wanting to drill from DV to Ponoka to Rimbey on all the abandoned wells to produce geothermal energy. 40,000 Albertans back to work. Why is Alberta not looking at this?

Darcy's response: GOA is reviewing 2 pilot projects. In Hinton and in Devon. Considering oversight of municipal legislation, surface rights, governance, approvals. Using inactive wells and abandoned.

Industry Updates:

Cenovus Energy: Jack Skjonsberg

No new business, maintain historic production.

Questfire: Energy Corp: Ted Thompson

Regular ongoing operations which includes preparations for winter. No new activities are planned

Baytex: Shane Koss

No new activity.

InPlay Oil:

No new activity.

Ken Jenny asked why InPlay has not been in attendance.

Paul stated the representative would come to meeting if there were new activity to report.

Can request their presence if necessary.

Ken noticed activity (service trucks) to the west of his location.

Resourceful Petroleum: Bill Dolan

No new activity to report since the last meeting.

Journey Energy:

No new activity.

County of Wetaskiwin: Kathy Rooyackers/Dale Woitt

Finished Yeoford Rd.

Response to question at previous meeting on water level at Battle Lake: The bridge needs to be replaced. There was a backhoe present to fix the bridge prior to snowfall. Waiting for funding to have bridge replaced. Should know if funding is available by end of November to be replaced in the spring. The dam had to be removed in the fall for safety reasons and to prevent rise in water level near the bridge (cause of damage to bridge). There was concern that the dam was making the water levels too low, environment advised the levels should rise this winter.

Ken Jenny: What was the cause of low water levels (dry land) in the 3rd week of July?

Mike Black: Similar situation on his property with a sequence of dams, when you breach the dam you lose control of where the water will flow. According to Environment water levels were normal in the spring. Dam was not removed until fall.

Kathy Rooyakkers introduced Dale Woitt as taking over County of Wetaskiwin representation. Kathy advised she can still be reached by phone and will be kept on email list.

Ken Jenny: 4 days prior to meeting there was significant tree removal by Fortis by the west side to the entrance to the Blue Heron campground. Ken commented that on previous occasions consultation had been done prior to removal of trees. Not so this time. Contractor had advised Fortis would be putting in additional lines to the campground therefore the necessity. Excessive in Ken's opinion. According to Contractor, limited access for machinery necessitated the removal of more trees, they were pushed into the ravine and left there. Damage was done to the road as there are big ruts there now from the heavy equipment.

Mike Black: Talk to owner of the triangular piece of land as ROW of power line to campground goes right across his land. Perhaps he initiated to remove the line off his land.

Kathy Rooyakkers will follow up regarding the road damage and advised there should have been some consultation.

Ken Jenny: Advised there were complaints regarding the boat launch at the campground (cracks in the slabs). Were repairs made while water levels were low?

Dale: County has made application to Federal government (Fisheries). Water is out of County jurisdiction therefore need approval from Fisheries before repairs can be done. Ken Jenny advised the new gate will be a problem for winter ice fishing access.

Community Updates:

Ken Jenny:

Letter to Ken Jenny and wife Sept 29, 2017

Notification of project cancellation. BonaVista Multi Well battery at 1-23-46-2-W5.

Ken believed there was another application of on south side of the lake for the same project. Would like an update on application.

Mike will find information in his file on if application was submitted.

Paul will follow up with Courtney Dunfield at BonaVista to see if application was submitted.

Ken thanked Kathy and the County Council for writing a Letter of Concern on his behalf.

Advised it was helpful in his view.

Ken advised of concern for SW of section 17 gate was open all summer. Well 10-14 gate post has been broken off for some time, gate will not close at all. If livestock is in the area it is handy to be able to close this gate. Northeast of section 17 on Jack Nelson place down

Rge Rd 24 on the North Lease Boundary fence, there are trees across the fence from this summer and one has been down for a couple of years. No maintenance is happening. Ted Thompson will follow up before next meeting: He had already requested that staff close the gate but will advise again.

BLWS Designation Boundary: Ken's understanding was there are not to be any subdivisions less than 20 acres within the watershed. Historically who set the boundary?

Paul: Ducks Unlimited had done a study but boundaries are usually determined by the County.

Ken: Ducks Unlimited study was used to determine the Tier. Was supposed to be ground truthed, time constraints did not allow. Minor water courses and muskeg were omitted.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association circulated Ad in Pipestone Flyer asking for input from property owners within Pigeon Lake Watershed in their survey. How do you expect public to reply if it is not clear if they are within the Designated Boundary? Map should be publicized for landowners.

Paul: Map should have been published with the survey.

Michael Black:

No new activity.

Adjourned 8:35pm

Next Meeting: February 1, 2018

ATTENDANCE Sign in:

INDIVIDUAL	REPRESENTING
Paul McLauchlin	Facilitator
Dale Woitt	County of Wetaskiwin
Darcy Allen	Alberta Energy Regulator
Ken Jenny	Resident
Mike Black	Resident
Jack Skjonsberg	Cenovus Energy
Ted Thompson	Questfire Energy
Kathy Rooyakkers	County of Wetaskiwin