



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

A meeting of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group was held on Thursday September 2, 2021 at Lakedell Ag Society Hall B with Paul McLauchlin acting as Facilitator.

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

AGENDA:

- Introductions
- Review of Minutes
- Follow-up Action Items
- AER Updates
- Industry Updates
- Community Updates
- Next Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

In attendance were {2} residents, {5} industry representatives and government officials. (See the attached list.)

Review of Minutes:

Follow-up Action Items:

N/A

AER Update: Leanne Chartrand

Via email September 2, 2021

NOTE: for regular updates, please sign up for our [News Release Subscription](#) and [Subscribe to Updates](#)

Bulletin 2021-32, Large Facility Levy

The Alberta Energy Regulator recently announced that 40 large-facility operators will be required to pay into a \$3.5-million orphan large facility levy fund. More details can be found here: [Bulletin 2021-32](#).

This is the first time the AER has issued this levy and is one of several tools under our existing liability management programs to ensure closure costs remain with industry.

The \$3.5 million will be used to cover closure costs for two large plants that were licensed to companies that are insolvent. This includes sour gas plants licensed to Shoreline Energy near Silver Valley, and to Lexin Resources and LR Processing near Mazeppa. Shoreline Energy's sour gas plant has been decommissioned by other energy companies that have partial interest in the plant. The outstanding costs incurred for that work

form part of this year's levy. The Mazeppa sour gas plant will be decommissioned this year by the Orphan Well Association and costs to complete this work will be spread out over the next three years starting this year. The AER expects to issue this levy for the next three years to fund work to decommission the Mazeppa sour gas plant.

If you have any questions or comments please contact OrphanLevy@aer.ca

Bulletin 2021-33, Invitation for Feedback on Proposed New Requirements for Geothermal Resource Development

This directive contains the requirements for geothermal resource development below the base of groundwater protection. Geothermal resource means the natural heat from the earth that is below the base of groundwater protection, as defined under the Geothermal Resource Development Act (GRDA). Geothermal resource development covers both the commercial and non-commercial development of the geothermal resource and can involve wells, pipelines, and for commercial purposes only, facilities. The entire life cycle of geothermal development is covered: initiation, construction, operation, and closure. Many of the requirements for geothermal development are the same as for oil and gas development. As a result, there are a number of references in this directive to other Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) directives that contain requirements that must be followed. To provide feedback on the draft directive, complete the comment form available on the directive's webpage. Feedback or questions on the directive should be sent by email to geothermal@aer.ca. **Feedback will be accepted through September 3, 2021.** [Bulletin 2021-33](#)

News Release 2021-06-17, Joint review panel concludes review of Grassy Mountain Coal project

June 17, 2021... The Joint Review Panel for Benga Mining Limited's Grassy Mountain Coal project has completed its review and submitted its final report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The panel, in its capacity as a hearing panel for the Alberta Energy Regulator, found the project is not in the public interest and has denied the provincial applications.

"The panel's decision reflects the AER's commitment to making evidence-based and risk-informed decisions in the public interest," said Laurie Pushor, president and CEO of the Alberta Energy Regulator.

For more information, review the panel's news release. The report, which includes an executive summary, is available on the AER website. Project information is available on the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (IAAC) project registry. Learn more about the AER's hearing process and the provincial-federal joint review panel process. [News Release 2021-06-17](#)

Social Media:

[AER YouTube](#)

Resource:

<https://resource.aer.ca/>

The business of making sure that energy development happens safely can be complex. To help bring clarity to these complexities, the Alberta Energy Regulator created Resource, our website for sharing stories, images and videos on energy development and how its regulated in Alberta.

Discussion:

Regarding Geothermal Resource development: Requires landowner consent, there is no recourse to Surface Rights Board, as well as no backing by Surface Rights Board if concerns arise on compensation etc. Bilateral agreement, consent provided. Peripheral service equipment

(substations, powerlines, infrastructure) on adjacent lands then Right of Entry process apply under AUC approval.

If purpose of development is for waste heat development within the fence line, then it falls under Oil and Gas Consultation Act. GOA and AER have not put in regulations yet regarding mineral ownership or royalties with respect to heat. Production depends on open loop versus closed loop system.

INDUSTRY UPDATES:

Baytex: Shane Koss

Currently reviewing 2022 budget. Drilled 2 successful wells at 10-34 location. Update on section 27- regarding drilling a well will have to follow up.

Water supply resourced from Rimbey water treatment sites, however due to drought supply ran short resulting in cancellation of completion activity. Plans to start back up mid September.

Q: Location off Hwy 13 update; may be part of 2022 budget but still in discussion.

Economic uncertainty/Covid determine budget and activity.

Resourceful Petroleum: Bill Dolan

No update

Journey Energy: Dale Guidi

No update

Sifton Petroleum Inc: Davin Chandler

No update

Cenovus: Craig Cann

Via email August 31, 2021

Cenovus has sold to i3 Energy in the Pigeon Lake area so we will no longer be participating in the Synergy Group.

County of Wetaskiwin: Dale Woitt

No update.

Farmers Advocate Office: Darcy Allen

1. Landowner issues with unpaid annual surface lease compensation. No payment at all, partial payments, notices of reduction in compensation. Working with landowners to provide support with navigating provisions in surface lease agreement, resources and support with Sec 36 applications under surface rights act regarding rental recoveries. Section 27

notifications for rental reviews, inquiries on going rates, rights and responsibilities, comparable data, reasonableness of agreements.

2. Inquiries regarding renewable energy, specifically solar developments. Landowners and municipalities with questions on bilateral negotiations, contracts, agreements often foreign information to stakeholders.
3. Inquiries from landowners on reclamation, remediation, abandonment activity, rights & obligations of Oil companies looking to do integrity inspections. Temporary workspace agreements, damages, protocols. Increase in asset changes for both companies and landowners therefore agreements have been misplaced. Original documents have been amended several times. Proof of payments required by Surface Rights Board. Check Land titles for caveats/easements, however the document behind the land title registry is what is legally binding.

Discussion:

There is provision for removal of inactive/abandoned pipeline portions from land that is to be developed by landowner. Can be costly, if pipeline is not in the way of development it may be better left.

Permanent sterilization of land occurs with some types of resource development with compensation for original disturbance only. Should be and is an important topic for FAO.

Important to realize even with abandonment the setbacks are still in place.

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

Battle River Watershed Alliance: Sarah Skinner

Alberta Lake Management Society did summer sampling at Battle Lake, once/month from May to September. Report will be made available to the group as soon as completed, expected late winter. Water Quality compared with previous data. Will attempt to get out again this winter for sampling. Community volunteers with boats were an asset. Possible to get Brad Peter from ALMS to come out to interpret report for group.

For North Saskatchewan Region, GOA has developed a draft Surface Water Quality Management Framework including NSR and Battle River. Surface water quality indicators used to determine thresholds/triggers, requiring action on GOA part. Related to regional land use plan. Currently receiving feedback on the draft until September 17, 2021.

<https://www.alberta.ca/north-saskatchewan-region-surface-water-quality-management-engagement.aspx>

Riparian Web Portal online workshop next Thursday September 9, 2021. Satellite based riparian intactness data that has been collected with North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance along Battle River, tributaries, lakes and streams. How to interpret data. Invite will be sent to group.

Discussion: Concern for fish morphology, habitat loss due to drainage of the lake three years ago (possibly Alberta transportation removing beaver dams at outlet). Fish are aggressive for angling; appearance is large heads and very thin bodies. Concern this loss of habitat is attributed to

apparent starvation of the fish. Who facilitated removal, why, and impact on lake took two years for lake to recover in wet years.

Lake is remarkably clear this time of year, with July being turbid. Typically turbidity of lake is significant in last half of the summer with July being clear. No algae and duck weed this year. Notice more blue green algae in previous years.

Michael Black :

Baytex did reclamation on their property, so far so good. The grass is growing, see full results in next year or two.

Graham Gilchrist - Consultant:

Sat on Alberta Land and Property Rights Tribunal for two weeks. Lands and Property Rights Tribunal Act, if review or appeal is made, appeal goes back to board. If not satisfied with board decision you must apply for judicial review. Merge of four boards, Municipal Government Board, The New Home Buyer Protection Board, The Land Compensation Board, and The Surface Rights Board are all now one panel.

Petro-globes bankruptcy is now cleared.

Documentation for Surface rights. Originals, amendments. Paper hunt.

Giving a brief to Special Committee on Property Rights. Extended deadline for making submission on should there be an Alberta clause in Canadian Constitution for property rights and compensation at the constitutional level rather than charter of rights.

<https://www.assembly.ab.ca/assembly-business/committees/RP>

Discussion: Coal mining issues. Grassy Mountain had prov and federal ruling. Report will come out end of year.

Dave Doze:

Pembina Surface Rights Meeting Sept 14, 2021, at 7pm at Warburg Community Hall.
OWA Executive Director Lars DePauw will be presenting.

Margaret Rathnavalu:

Via email Sept 2, 2021

Submission on Draft Manual on Water Conservation Policy. See attached.

Ken Jenny:

No Update

Meeting Dates:

November 4, 2021

*Options for zoom or call in will be utilized as necessary for meetings to accommodate COVID restrictions of that time.

ATTENDANCE LIST

INDIVIDUAL	REPRESENTING
Paul McLauchlin	Facilitator
Shane Koss	Baytex
Graham Gilchrist	Consultant
Darcy Allen	Farmers Advocate Office
Sarah Skinner	Battle River Watershed Alliance
Dave Doze	Resident
Ken Jenny	Resident