



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

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A meeting of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Lakedell Ag Society Hall B with Paul McLaughlin 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 {5} residents, {11} industry representatives and government officials. (See the attached list.)

### **Review of Minutes:**

### **Follow-up Action Items:**

1. Who was active on the lease south of highway south of 4H Center? Activity there now. NW-1-46-2-W5. -Zoriana to follow up with Journey.
  - a. Journey presented operations plans during meeting. The well on this site tested sour in fall 2022. No flow/rock too tight; tried GLOC – did flow. 1-15 site had pump changes in the winter, activity from service rigs. No longer a Banff producer. Formerly an ENCAL well which is now insolvent. There are no more EPZ setbacks in place as it is a sweet well. No notification is required to the landowner.
2. Journey to follow up on expected water usage for development plan.

### **AER Update: Leanne Chartrand/Eric Berg**

Via email: Feb. 8, 2023

[What's New](https://www.aer.ca/whats-new)

<https://www.aer.ca/whats-new>

Link to AER Annual Report (page 4 information)

<https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/AER2021-22-AnnualReport.pdf>

Link to **Government of Alberta** Site Rehabilitation Program

<https://www.alberta.ca/site-rehabilitation-program.aspx>

Link to AER Closure Nomination Program

[https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/projects/IRP\\_ClosureNominationProgram.pdf](https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/projects/IRP_ClosureNominationProgram.pdf)

Link to Alberta Energy Industry Water Use Report

<https://www.aer.ca/protecting-what-matters/holding-industry-accountable/industry-performance/water-use-performance>

Link to AER Data HUB (The Data Hub is the central access point to information about Alberta's oil and gas energy industry.)

<https://www.aer.ca/providing-information/data-and-reports/data-hub>

Link to AER announcement The AER Issues an Environmental Protection Order for Imperial's Kearl Oil Sands Project

<https://www.aer.ca/providing-information/news-and-resources/news-and-announcements/announcements/announcement-february-07-2023>

## **INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

**Baytex: Jack Skjonsberg**

No plans for 2023

2024 – south drills on Highway 611 out of Tier 1.

Q: Loud in evening at new development 2-27.

A: Installed noise VFD on cooler fans, banked gravel, noise assessment done recently – no results yet.

Q: 10-27-7 was shut in, now ploughed.

A: Inspections were completed on well sites.

Q: RR20 and TWP 464. Concern for tank truck traffic throughout the night (11:30pm, 2:00 am), not obeying stop sign, sharp curve. Subcontractor almost hit KJ in July 2022 by running stop sign.

A: Hauling oil to lodgpole, truckers are awarded unload times. Baytex trucks should be travelling on Twp 454 & Hwy 771. Jack will follow up to verify if these are Baytex trucks.

**Journey Energy: Dale Guidi/Aaron Bell (Reservoir Engineer)**

Full Development Map for Battle Lake area presented. 10-year plan, drills expected to produce for 20 years. 200 meter set backs.

1680 m deep proposed horizontal well drills under Battle Lake at 13 m depth.

8-18 at 4-5 surface wells.

Belly River wells are 930 m deep, not fracked.

Fracking uses 25 tonnes of sand/stage, up to 60 stages.

Q3-Q4 2024 1 new well.

Issues with outtake resulted in proposed 5.6 km, 3–4-inch diameter future sweet/sour pipeline.

Q: Catchment line D56 – are surface locations within Tier 1 boundary?

A: Surface locations are outside of Tier 1, bore subsurface.

Comment: Not a good idea to drill under Battle Lake (fault line). What is the cost per frack and how many would occur under Battle Lake?

A: Approximately 60 fracks under BL expected. Estimated cost per frack is \$2.2 million. Distance between fracks 50-75 m. \$5.4 million for completion of Drill.

[FracFocus](https://fracfocus.org/) is an online public hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure registry. <https://fracfocus.org/>

Q: What is the likely expected water source for the fracturing? Concern for fresh water being permanently removed from the water table.

A: Drilled water well with a C-ring temporary tank – environmental requirements for a temporary C-ring tank are fresh water only if there is a spill/leak there is no contaminants. Water license is for 3000-4000 m<sup>3</sup>. Journey will follow up on water usage.

Q: Project Submission or Individual Application? – Participant involvement?

A: Individual Application expected, decision will be made in next 3 months on consultation and full development. Evaluating wells, uncertain on pipeline yet as well is not producing as expected. May abandon 16-5.

**Comments:**

- *Section 27 Water Act*- water source/amount/lower quality water use should be considered.
- Wetaskiwin County: There are no water licenses left for Battle Lake area. Cell 1-2 at Winfield release water for recycling purposes.
- Baytex purchases effluent water from Rimbey and Breton for development usage. This agreement has stayed the taxes for the Town of Rimbey.
- Trigger area closure wells? Area Based Closure (ABC) Program – looks at wells not producing to determine cost to abandon/reclaim. Regulator requires a commitment of 7% of deemed inactive liability per [Directive 011](#). Company can choose any well. Typically, it is more economical to group the closures.

<https://esaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AER-Area-Based-Closure.pdf>

[https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/AreaBasedClosureProgram\\_Report.pdf](https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/AreaBasedClosureProgram_Report.pdf)

Q: How many nonproducing wells in BL area will be closed/reclaimed?

A: None planned for this year.

Comment: Bare minimum clean up/closure.

A: ABC Program is a regulatory incentive for voluntary reclamation. [Working Interest Partner Agreement](#) -assigned liability where OWA can preform the completion work for substantially less cost.

Journey to email follow up notifications to Synergy to update the Group.

Journey is committed to upholding the BMPs for Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group.

### **Farmers Advocate Office: Darcy Allen**

Land Property Rights Tribunal is busy and ongoing.

Renewable Energy Developments are skyrocketing.

- Private agreement/lease therefore not governed by Surface Rights Act.
- Recommend to get a legal review of lease. Developer will pay for review if negotiated for by landowner.
- Lease agreements are typically 50-60 pages.
- Negotiate up front for remediation, arbitration clauses.
- Concern for prime agricultural land used for solar farms. Issue for municipalities in assuming liability closure, and delinquent property taxes. Issues of setbacks impeding adjacent landowner property uses.
- Concern for marginal lands being used as they usually have increases biodiversity compared to cultivated lands.

[Negotiating Renewable Energy Leases](#) - Landowner considerations and common questions

Q: Are indefinite caveats registered?

A: Voluntary right of entry agreement. No forced entry clause. Landowner has right to consent or not.

Lithium-Ion Batteries (solar operations) – runaway due to degradation to batteries. Fire suppression system need to be in place to mitigate fire risk.

### **County of Wetaskiwin: Kathy Rooyakkers**

Q: Clean Energy Improvement program?

A: County participates in [ALUS program](#) with Leduc, Parkland & Lacombe Counties. 1.38%. County taxes are too low for Clean Energy Improvement program to be a viable option.

### **Synergy AB Winter Workshop: Linda Black**

Held February 2, 2023, in Red Deer at the Baymont Conference Centre.

Industry, Regulatory (Provincial and National), Synergy representatives and Resident from all regions were present.

Presentations on the following Resource Development Hot Topics were made followed by a Panel Discussion/Question Period.

- CAPP – Industry Update
- Farmers’ Advocate – Renewable Resources
- AER – Carbon Capture
- OWA – Orphan Wells
- AER – Brine-Hosted Minerals
- CER Land Matters Group – Property Damage

The afternoon session consisted of three rounds of small group discussions on the following three questions:

**Question 1: Do any of the emerging issues & hot topics presented today concern or excite you?**

**Question 2: Which of these issues & topics might be important in your area or for your Synergy group? Why?**

**Question 3: How might your Synergy group address these issues? What actions might your group take?**

Discussions had a few common themes including:

- Education – both on the community and industry sides. Community would benefit from broader education outreach so as to make informed decisions when dealing with Industry. Industry should be educated on what concerns communities most and how to interact or mitigate.
- Effective and informed Regulation on new and renewable energy development/endeavors. Following the template of O&G for regulatory frameworks as well as reclamation and end of life processes and protections would be a good starting point.
- New membership/involvement from younger participants. A lot of communities are aging out/retiring from their involvement in Synergy.

Discussions will be summarised and provided on the Synergy Alberta Website as well as circulated to the participants.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATES:**

**Louis Bull Tribe: Melanie Daniels**

No Update.

**Graham Gilchrist:**

[Compensation reviews](#): 4<sup>th</sup> year renegotiation of terms, 5<sup>th</sup> year file with tribunal if no agreement. Companies are trying to hit the 30-day window deadline.

**Battle River Watershed Alliance: Sarah Skinner**

AGM is planned for June 2023 at the 4H Center. Sarah will update when date is available.

Presentation on the ALMS LakeWatch/LakeKeepers reports by Caleb Sinn.

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WLK\\_2020-2021\\_Final\\_20211202.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WLK_2020-2021_Final_20211202.pdf)

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WLK\\_201920\\_FINAL\\_20210201.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WLK_201920_FINAL_20210201.pdf)

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WinterLakeKeepers\\_2019-Final.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WinterLakeKeepers_2019-Final.pdf)

Government funded/ Lake by Lake basis.

LakeWatch Program operated by staff and volunteer (boat availability). More sophisticated sampling taking place four times per year. Invasive species (mussels), nutrients, water quality, chemistry (phosphorus), biological parameters, physical parameters, Benthic Invertebrate assessments, Algae assessments.

LakeKeepers Program is Citizen science based with reporting and sampling.

Annual Conference in September 2023 at Sylvan Lake.

Q: Are Phosphate load/ Hydrocarbons tested for?

A: PMRA – Run-off, insecticides, pesticides, yes, included in the sample set.

Hydrocarbons are not for this area. More so done in oil sands regions. Expensive sample set due to lab costs as well as specialty equipment required to complete. Some Universities/research projects will complete this type of testing.

Battle Lake is Eutrophic in terms of phosphorus, chlorophyll load. Blue Green Algae is well under 10 ug/l standard.

Discussion:

- Important to know what happens in winter under the ice, this predicts what occurs for the following summer quality.
- Resampling in February is critical to determine oxygen levels.
- Monitoring every 2-4 years to build on baseline data. Five more seasons required for a trend analysis to occur.
- Recommend metal sampling, last performed 2012. Mercury is usually sampled in proximity to coal plants, can be added to sampling.
- No sediment sampling is done.
- No invasive mussels or others of concern in Battle Lake.
- Riparian Area assessment portal, Battle Lake is 90% intact.
- CFO within the watershed, what happened that it was rejected? Watershed Management Plan (Protects the health of the lake) along with one First Nation submission on TLU concerns. NRCB can reject at an administrative level and/or a Hearing level.
- Land use impact is out of scope, falls to WPAC. Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society have some good resources.
- How to identify Blue-green algae – it is a bacteria, looks like scum, no structure, grass clipping appearance. If turquoise in color likely blue-green algae. Observations of lake are that presence fluctuates year to year, by end of July there is no more swimming.

**Danika Piggot:**

See Wetaskiwin County discussion.

**Michael Black:**

Appreciate Journey coming and sharing information.

**Ken Jenny:**

Live more; complain less.

**Battle Lake Watershed Pilot Project Reports:**

<https://www.battleriverwatershed.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Battle-Lake-Watershed-Development-Planning-Pilot-Project-2006-Summary-Report.pdf>

**ERCB Review of the Battle Lake Watershed Development Planning Pilot Project, March 2011:**

[https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/BattleLakeReport\\_March2011.pdf](https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/BattleLakeReport_March2011.pdf)

**Meeting Dates for 2023:**

May 4, 2023

September 7, 2023

November 2, 2023

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

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Paul McLauchlin	Facilitator
Linda Black	Admin
Shane Koss	Baytex
Kathy Rooyakers	Wetaskiwin County
Dale Guidi	Journey
Aaron Bell	Journey
Graham Gilchrist	Consultant
Jack Skjonsberg	Baytex
Darcy Allen	FAO
Sarah Skinner	Battle River Watershed Alliance
Caleb Sinn	ALMS
Ken Jenny	Resident
Joanne Brodersen	Resident
Michael Black	Resident
Dave Doze	Resident
Danika Piggot	Resident