



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

A meeting of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group was held on Thursday, September 7, 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 {4} residents, {8} industry representatives and government officials. (See the attached list.)

Review of Minutes:

Follow-up Action Items:

1. Journey – Dale to follow up on 4-14-46-2-W5 site information records. – Paul to follow up with Dale for updated information. Request for information as Dave works on fence line across from the lease, even though residence is 1 mile away.

AER Update: Leanne Chartrand- Not in attendance

Synergy Group: Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group

Date: September 7, 2023

Prepared by: Leanne Chartrand

Bulletin 2023-31 Industry Wide Closure Spend Requirements For 2024; Each oil and gas licensee with inactive wells and facilities is required to meet an individual annual mandatory closure spend quota. In setting licensee-specific mandatory closure spend, we consider the licensee's proportion of the total industry inactive liability and the licensee's financial health, determined using financial information provided under *Directive 067: Eligibility Requirements for Acquiring and Holding Energy Licences and Approvals*.

ST98: Alberta Energy Outlook 2023; We issue a report each year that provides independent and comprehensive information on the state of reserves and the supply and demand outlook for

Alberta's diverse energy resources: crude bitumen, crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, coal, and emerging resources. The 2023 report includes a new section on emerging resources for lithium. **Orphaned, abandoned, reclaimed: understanding how wells are classed;** The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) requires companies—also referred to as “licensees”—to make sure that wells pose no threat to public safety or the environment. This goes for wells that are categorized as inactive, suspended, abandoned, reclaimed, and orphaned.

INDUSTRY UPDATES:

Baytex: Jack Skjonsberg/Murray Phillips/Kyle Hillstead/Brad Nicholson

Presentation: FAQ from group minutes.

2023 activity: 6 wells drilled off pads 7-28-45-2-W5 (existing lease) & 10-31-45-2-W5 (new construction). Build pipeline approx. 1 mile to 11-30. All wells are on production now. 2024 update will change as time progresses. Currently approved to drill 6 more wells. 3 pads selected, not narrowed down to which pads will be drilled. First pad 7-5-45-2-W5 on HWY 611. Second pad 6-27-45-2-W5 1 mile east of 7-28 pad, third pad site 10-31-45-2-W5. Could be 7-9 wells, will not know until end November/early December. Lay flats 2-3, presentation.

Presentation:

- Battle Lake ~40 feet deep
- Groundwater protection required 600m depth, Baytex covers to 650m depth.
- Duvernay formation is not sour.
- Drill 650 m and install 9.5 inch steel pipe casing cemented.
- Generally drilling 3-6 wells per pad, pads are designed to accommodate up to 12 wells. Cover 5 square miles of development with one single surface location.
- Completion – perforating. Typical frack is 400 ft long. Drilling wells 800 ft apart. Pressure gauges installed, no readings between wells.
- Not fracking into sour.
- Contained system up to well head at surface.
- Separator – water, oil, natural gas.
- Fluids are then transported to sales.
- Abandoned – permanent plug to isolate the well bore. Pressure tested. 20 ft of cement on top. Repair any insufficiencies. Redundant pressure tests, then cap well (steel plate).
- Land returned to equivalent use.
- Noise control during operations. Compliance met, continue to minimize noise beyond compliance requirements based on resident feedback. 5x less noise than requirements.
- Use effluent water sources.
- Community support.
- Produced water returns with high salt content therefore presents as high environmental risk to store.

Journey Energy: Dale Guidi – not in attendance

County of Wetaskiwin: Kathy Rooyackers

New CAO Scott MacDougall previously with Sturgeon County. Private and public experience.
40% increase in taxes for 12,000 residents.

Farmers Advocate Office: Darcy Allen

Directive 71 – emergency response planning revamp. Information sessions.

Aug 3 AUC announcement implementation of pause in Renewable energy projects approvals for 6 month period. Inquiry on adjudication processes. **Greater than 1 MW in size.**

Considerations:

- Development of powerplants on specific types or classes of agricultural or environmental land
- Impacts on AB pristine Viewscapes.
- Implementing mandatory reclamation security requirements for power plants
- Development of powerplants on lands held by the crown.
- Impacts of the considerable growth of renewable energy to both generation supply mix and electricity system reliability.

AUC Bulletin 2023 09 06- Interim requirements under Rule 007 (power plant applications) to submit more detail and specifications (type of lands, municipal land use, Viewscape, reclamation security)

Discussion:

Landowner: QC based project – without protection that AER gives for renewable...will never get out of oil and gas. Assessment = pre-approval for production.
Sterilization of quarter section for development of residency.
Voluntary process for negotiating contracts for renewable.

COMMUNITY UPDATES:**Battle River Watershed Alliance: Sarah Skinner**

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/2020/05/WinterLakeKeepers_2019-Final.pdf

AGM June 2023

Paul presented on BLWSG History.

ALMS – water quality monitoring -basic water chemistry.

Explore broader water quality monitoring with preservation society support.

Paddle event maybe in the spring.

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

Meeting Dates for 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

INDIVIDUAL	REPRESENTING
Paul McLauchlin	Facilitator
Brad Nicholson	Baytex
Jack Skjonsberg	Baytex
Murray Phillips	Baytex
Kyle Hillstead	Baytex
Kathy Rooyackers	Wetaskiwin County
Darcy Allan	FAO
Sarah Skinner	BRWA
Dave Doze	Resident
Bob Whiteside	Resident
Lily Whiteside	Resident
Rick Bauman	Resident
Joanne Broderson	Resident