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## **MEETING NOTES**

### **SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER SUB-BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **The South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Planning**

Date: 13 November 2001  
Location: Provincial Building, Medicine Hat

Attending:

- Sector Representatives and/or Alternates:

<u>Sector:</u>	<u>Representative:</u>
Rural Municipalities:	Floyd Haas
Urban Municipalities:	David Teasdale
Industrial:	Ron Wendling, Jim French (alternate)
Other Agriculture:	Len Mitzel
Recreation:	Duncan Baldie
Environmental:	Corlaine Gardner
Irrigation Agriculture:	Stan Klassen

- Alberta Government staff:

Cheryl Dash, Community Relations Officer  
Doug Ohrn, Basin Coordinator

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#### **Meeting Topics:**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:**
  - Members reintroduced themselves and their sectors.
- 2. Review Agenda**
  - No changes (addition/deletions) were suggested
- 3. Administration**
  - Reminder to all BAC members to submit expense claims to D. Ohrn or C. Dash by the end of the year if you are claiming for mileage, meals or accommodation. Those organizations that are able to cover expenses of members are encouraged to continue to do so.

- Copies of Dave McGee's presentation on Oct. 10 at the Joint BAC meeting have been requested by Cheryl Bradley, Brian Hammond and Greg Nikles.
- The video of the joint BAC meeting is not ready. We will try to get this done by end of next week (November 16, 2001).
- Alberta Environment will be hosting the webpage for the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan. Some information will hopefully be posted by Friday November 16, 2001.
- Discussion over the possibility of the SSRS BAC starting a list server took place and general agreement was that the BAC would like to pursue this. Cheryl to arrange set-up and notification to BAC.
- The list server is one means of providing input. It is intended to help foster and record discussion. All SS BAC members are invited to join in the discussion. The list server opportunity is being provided by the Eastern Irrigation District to all the BAC's.  
To register please follow these steps...
  - 1) Go to website <http://eid01.eidnet.org/guest/RemoteListSummary/brbac>
  - 2) Enter your e-mail address in the box indicated, and
  - 3) Click on the submit button.
 You can post text within an e-mail message or an e-mail message with attachments to the BRBAC List Server by e-mailing:  
brbac\_list@eidnet.org  
The only limitation is that the size of the attachments and messages must be less than 1000 KB. If that is a problem let me know and I can increase the size.  
Red Deer BAC list server:  
To subscribe click go to this link  
<http://eid01.eidnet.org/guest/RemoteListSummary/rdrbac>  
If you place a message on the website of another BAC, please state your name and state that you are a member of the SS BAC.
- DRAFT minutes were approved – no comments received.
- Water Availability Information Package was reviewed and discussed. Extra copies were made available to members.
- Next meeting: Saturday November 24, 9:30am – 3:00 pm Medicine Hat Provincial Building.

#### 4. Matters and Factors

- Temporary or permanent transfers – can they be adjusted according to the effect on the environment downstream.
- Water quality of return low in urban and rural systems.
- Is the return flow calculated in the overall flow? --- it's better to assume no return flow. Irrigation districts are aiming to reduce all return flow.
- Effects on the aquatic environment, waste assimilation – especially in extreme rainfall events.

#### 5. Holdbacks

- Temporary or permanent? According to need/user
- What is the Director considering...and why?...Will this stand-up in the event of an appeal? We should know what is being considered and what his/her expectations/priorities are.
- Is the return flow being used in the overall flow calculation for holdbacks?
- If transferring from an old licence with no instream objective, director applies discretion for the amount of holdback (up to 10%)...but only if needed for instream objectives.
- IN's should recognize variation in stream flow (seasonally).
- Transfers and timing...if possible, using specific times on the holdback amount or transfer, try to help the natural fluctuations of the river.

- Define temporary. 5 years or less?
- Withhold on transfers more than 5 years.

#### 6. Parked Items

- What is “in good standing”?
- Need to examine instream objective information closer in making decisions.
- Is return flow factored into the calculation of overall flow. Will this affect holdbacks?
- Interbasin transfers...are they a possibility?
- Can the un-used part of existing municipal licences be used for instream objectives for future waste assimilation?
- Improve treatment of water flowing back into system – don’t use water flow for assimilation.
- Industry is on the path of zero discharge.
- “First in time, first in right” is this really the right way to go??? Maybe priority rights should be re-examined.
- If the water volume and priority of an old licence that has no instream objective attached is being transferred, can a new instream objective be attached to the new licence receiving the transfer to ensure the aquatic environment will not be affected?
- Withholding on temporary transfers should only be for length of transfer.
- Can IO’s and WCO’s be met in other ways? Other than through holdbacks?
- Education – people north of Edmonton don’t appreciate water issues.

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These notes were prepared by Cheryl Dash (403-381-5562). Please let me know if there are any errors or omissions.

Copies to: All attendees  
BAC Coordinators