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MEETING NOTES

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER SUB-BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Planning

Date: 23 October 2001
Location: Provincial Building, Medicine Hat

Attending:

- Sector Representatives and/or Alternates:

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

Absent

Irrigation Agriculture:	Stan Klassen (with regrets)
First Nations:	Rick Yellowhorn
Recreation	Merv Petersen, Ralph Pinder

- Alberta Government staff:

Cheryl Dash, Community Relations Officer
Doug Ohrn, Basin Coordinator
Kathleen Murphy, Water Management

Meeting Topics:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:**
 - Members reintroduced themselves and their sectors.
- 2. Review Agenda**
 - No changes (addition/deletions) were suggested

3. Purpose of meeting

- It was identified that the role of the BAC has changed slightly in that they are going right into the discussions of water management planning. The first component that must be completed before 31 December 2001 was that of *Water Allocation Transfers*.

4. Background

- Doug O. briefly reviewed the presentations that were given at the joint BAC meeting (10 October 2001) in Calgary. Paper copies were also given out.

5. BAC Input

- Discussion over the short timeline and that the BAC's were still expected to confer with their associated sectors and gather input. AENV would help by providing administrative support where needed.
- As discussion occurs at meetings, some items not specifically dealing with *Water Allocation Transfers* will be 'parked' for future discussion.
- To help guide BAC's through the topic of *Water Allocation Transfers* a workbook was developed. All BAC's will use this workbook.
- As the discussion in all the basins continues, notes and related material will be shared in a timely manner.
- Dates for the next meetings were set.
 - Tuesday November 13 evening 6:00 – 9:00 pm;
 - Saturday November 24 daytime 9:30am – 3:00 pm;
 - Tuesday November 27 evening 6:00 – 9:00 pm, and
 - Wednesday November 28 evening 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

6. Discussion/Ideas/Questions

- The original water allocation did not cost yet the transfer will create a price for the water transfer.
- Water markets and cost/benefits analysis should be looked at.
- At what point will waste assimilation be considered with flows. Will there be caps on sizes of operations (municipalities, ILO) or will the assimilation flows be identified at specific sites?
- Has this growing season/drought brought about an increased urgency in the planning or transfer process?
- Agricultural use registration of water on, beside, through and below land.
- Directors under the WaterAct is the water manager which is appointed by the Minister
 - Prairie --- Dave McGee (for licencing), Alan Pentney for water management planning
 - Bow --- Dave Ardell
 - Parkland --- Larry Williams
- Agriculture feasibility report on newly proposed irrigated lands will help to determine if the land is suitable for irrigated land use.
- Licenses must be in good standing in order to be transferred.
- Definition of good standing still needs to be defined
 - Purpose is not the issue – but use is.
 - I.e. Municipalities that have forseen population increases and acquired licences for those projected populations...Is a volume of water licenced 20 years ago still be considered in good standing?
 - Also, if a transfer was applied for on a license that is considered not in good standing---which comes first, the application for transfer of the allocation or determination that the licence is not in good standing...which does not allow for

the transfer to take place...refusal of the transfer application or the cancellation of the license if not in good standing?

- Is it possible to cancel part of a license? May justify reasons for using/keeping it.
- Cost and price should be involved.
- Cancelled license would lose priority.
- Where/when is the balance between consumptive and environment going to be considered if you can transfer larger than 10% to maintain the health of the river.
 - Hypothetical...50% to stressed reach and 50% back to consumptive on a cancelled license.
- Pipelines and off stream storage options should be considered.
- Some irrigation districts have too much water licensed to them...can this be clawed back --- not in good standing...water cannot be used because the land in the district could not use that much water.
- Definitions of hydraulic, hydrological, hydrogeological were discussed.
- If I'm not using my license (because of water conservation efforts) should my "not in good standing" status be 'clawed back' to the stream?
- When is the definitions of "good standing" going to be ready?
- Do natural flows, which are return flows, supercede others? (I.e. Seven Persons).

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