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## **MEETING NOTES**

### **OLDMAN RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**Date:** 25 October 2001  
**Location:** Provincial Building, Lethbridge

#### **Attending:**

- Sector Representatives and Alternates:

<u>Sector:</u>	<u>Representative, Alternate:</u>
Headwaters Rural Municipalities:	Brian Hammond, Rod Cyr
Downstream Rural Municipalities:	Hank Van Beers
Headwaters Towns and Villages:	Ralph Bourque
Industrial:	Greg Nikles
Other Agriculture:	Larry Nolan
Ecosystem Protection:	Cheryl Bradley, Cheryl Fujikawa
Oldman River Dam EAC Liaison:	Henry Bosman
Irrigation Agriculture:	Keith Francis
Downstream Towns and Villages:	Duncan Lloyd
City of Lethbridge:	Doug Kaupp

#### **Absent:**

First Nations:	Rick Yellowhorn
Irrigation Agriculture:	Stan Klassen (with regrets)
Recreation:	Jim Clarke

#### **Alberta Government staff:**

Doug Ohrn, Basin Coordinator, Environment  
Cheryl Dash, Community Relations Officer, Environment  
Dave McGee, Alberta Environment

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### **Meeting Topics:**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Doug Kaupp will be replacing Ed Martin as the City of Lethbridge representative.
- Harley Phillips will no longer be representing the downstream towns and villages as he is no longer the mayor of Taber.
- All members reintroduced themselves.

#### **2. Review Agenda**

- It was decided that a review of the Calgary 10 October 2001 joint BAC meeting was not necessary.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Administration

- A video and transcript of the October 10 Joint BAC meeting will be available. Greg Nikles identified he would like a copy of the video to view.
- A transcript of the Joint BAC meeting is available in print and electronic form. Henry Bosman requested a paper copy of the parts of the transcript that covers Dave McGee's talks.
- Electronic copies of the approved Terms of Reference, Work Book and Plan one-pager is to be emailed out to members.
- It was recommended that these items (above) be made available on a website.
  - Cheryl is in the process of making this happen.
- Next meeting dates:
  - Wednesday November 7, 5 – 9 pm Provincial Building;
  - Thursday November 8, 5 – 9 pm Provincial Building;
  - Thursday November 29, 1 – 9 pm Provincial Building.
  - Meals will be provided.
- Concerns were expressed that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) were not included in these BAC discussions. Doug identified that the Steering Committee is briefing FOC on the whole project. Doug will continue to track this and report back to the BAC.

### 5. Discussion/Ideas/Questions to Consider

- Whether there are temporary or permanent transfers --- should there be holdbacks on temporary transfers? Should there be holdbacks on Permanent Transfers?
- Assignments were used this year not transfers.
- Describe temporary transfer
  - No priority is lost
  - Allocation refers to rate, volume, priority
- Transfers could not negatively affect third parties.
- Who decides on the use (matters and factors) that the transfer is priority for...taking a look at the economic importance.
- Water license not being used completely can be used for the greater good.
- Dollars will come into this.
- Possible compensation from a transferee or transferor to third parties who could suffer harm from a transfer.
- Transfer of license to environmental group for the environment – transfers to crown – the crown could not then re-issue it.
- Transfer of water downstream should automatically be approved --- holdbacks --- how much???

- Traditional agriculture use.
  - Livestock consumption
  - Pesticide spraying prior to 1999 01/01
  - Dec 31/01 last day to register
  - Registration cannot be transferred
- There is no new water only intensification of use.
- Changing water use (conserving) promotes efficiency.
- Definition of aquatic environment.... very broad. Many aspects of the aquatic environment could be considered in evaluating effects of a transfer, not just those for which instream needs are being determined.
- Transfer of water to better irrigatable land has a greater priority than poorer land
- River reaches that are stressed should not have additional allocations....protect the aquatic environment.
- All for one – one for all concept...respect downstream users despite priorities and uses.
- All irrigation districts within the SSRB are capped --- expansion of irrigated land is through efficiency and technology changes.
- Reallocations are only done through cancellations of ‘not in good standing’ licenses.
- Does water left in a river due to a license being cancelled have to be re-allocated?
- Dave will have a definition for not in good standing within the next two weeks.
- What happens if urban centres cannot get any more water for an expanded city?
- There could be a grant system to get low risk water for municipalities.
- Towns should have water use plans.
- There may be some water available through the irrigation districts.
- Incentives for off stream storage for municipalities.
- Where is the ‘comfort zone’ for aquatic needs...are the instream needs being satisfied?
- Public involvement...greater public interest.
- Provide info on Public involvement.
- Groundwater depleting due to rivers at minimum flows.
- A water use conservation element could be included in new licenses created as the result of a transfer.
- When notifications are issued for public review of a transfer, who can speak for the environment?  
Who has standing to do this?

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These minutes were prepared by Cheryl Dash (403-381-5562). Please advise if there are any errors or omissions.

Copies to:      BAC Coordinators  
                      All attendees