

Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting  
 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
 Monday, June 17, 2002  
 Glenmore Water Treatment Plant, Calgary

| <b>Summary of Follow-up Action</b>                                                                          | <b>Person</b>    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Provide information on double sampling to FEW members                                                       | Ken and Brian    |
| Provide electronic copy of U of C research project in the Elbow watershed                                   | Cathy            |
| Provide input for a social science survey to Cathy for U of C study                                         | Everyone         |
| Discuss continuation of umbrella relationship with BRBC                                                     | Eric             |
| Consider who could sit on the WQTC and discuss with Eric                                                    | Everyone         |
| Provide a list of questions to assist stakeholders in articulating their needs for water quality monitoring | Monique and Eric |
| Summary article on Watershed Assessment for September Newsletter                                            | Monique          |

| <u>Attendees</u>     | <u>Affiliation</u>                         | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Email</u>                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Monique Dietrich     | Watershed Coordinator                      | 547-6474     | mdiet@shaw.ca                   |
| Eric Lloyd, Chair    | Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition (BCEC) | 218-7701     | elloyd@ptac.org                 |
| Ken Voss, Vice-Chair | Calgary Waterworks                         | 268-5761     | ken.voss@gov.calgary.ab.ca      |
| Kit Lewis            | Springbank resident, BCEC                  | 242-0653     | kitlewis@telusplanet.net        |
| Joe Zink             | Farmers of the Elbow Watershed (FEW)       | 246-3553     | zink@colpittsranches.com        |
| Allen Fuller         | City of Calgary ITS                        | 268-6759     | allen.fuller@gov.calgary.ab.ca  |
| Sarah Hamza          | BRBC                                       | 254-3419     | shamza@earthtech.ca             |
| Gloria Wilkinson     | Springbank resident, BRBC                  | 246-3916     | wilky@cadvision.com             |
| Jerry VandenBerg     | University of Calgary                      | 249-2988     | javanden@ucalgary.ca            |
| Cathy Ryan           | U of C                                     | 220-2793     | ryan@geo.ucalgary.ca            |
| Jon Groves           | Glencoe Golf & Country Club                | 240-3663     | turfcare@glencoe.org            |
| Doug Weston          | landowner/rancher                          | 949-2177     | fcranch@cadvision.com           |
| Sheena Majewski      | Fisheries & Oceans Canada                  | 292-6543     | MajewskiS@dfo-mpo.gc.ca         |
| Tim Dietzler         | MD of Rocky View                           | 520-1271     | tdietzler@gov.mdrockyview.ab.ca |
| Ewen Munro           | Springbank Comm. Planning Assoc.           | 686-7060     | ewmunro@alumni.ucalgary.ca      |
| Carol Engstrom       | Husky Energy                               | 298-6175     | carol.engstrom@huskyenergy.ca   |
| Brian Chinery        | AENV                                       | 297-5949     | Brian.Chinery@gov.ab.ca         |

## **AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Approval of May 14<sup>th</sup> minutes and business arising from the minutes
3. Stakeholder updates – Doug Weston, MDRV, FEW, and City of Calgary
4. University of Calgary study update from Cathy Ryan
5. Coordinator update – River Rafting Trip, Field Trips, Meeting with Morrison Hershfield, Website
6. Water Quality Committee
7. Society Registration
8. Next meeting date

## **Minutes and Related Business**

MOTION: Kit moved that the minutes of May 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 be approved. Seconded by Joe. Carried.  
 On Water Quality Indexing: Mark has provided technical information. Others may be working on similar techniques such as Francois Bouchart and Alberta Agriculture (through Madawaska

Consulting). Monique will find out more information to see if this is a suitable tool to use on the Elbow.

### **Stakeholder Updates**

1. Doug presented a proposal to build a water storage reservoir on his property at Fish Creek Ranch to address the need for a reliable and safe water supply for drinking and fire fighting for the 400 residences he wants to build on his ½ section and has offered the service to new schools on the Banded Peak Elementary site and to current homes in Bragg Creek. At present, 40% of water supply wells in the hamlet are contaminated and this plan could provide residents with treated pressurized water. He asked the group for feedback and reported positive interest from Rocky View School Division. His application to AENV for water withdrawal was successful in 1998 but is dependent on need. The plan calls for the reservoir to be filled from Fish Creek in the spring when all license holders take their supply.
2. Tim provided copies of the latest MD newsletter *Up the Creek With a Paddle* –covering Bighorn, Mountain View, Kneehill, Wheatland and Rocky View. Upcoming events include an **Agricultural Tour – Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup>** which will tour the Symon's Valley area west of Airdrie and discuss grazing systems, drought proofing a farm, greenhouse cucumber production and more. An all day event – register by calling 230-1401. New watershed initiatives are being formed in the MD by residents of the Little Red Deer River and the Horse Creek/Grande Valley area.

Due to several absentees this summer, the presentation of ERWP Strategic Plan and Terms of Reference to MD Council will be cancelled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. Tim will try for another date in September.

3. Joe announced the second habitat enhancement area is in the planning stage with FEW. It will consist of fencing off an area on a farmer's land. He also reported a loss of 640 acres of farming land in the past year due, in part, to development. Farmers have reported that double sampling is occurring, and Joe asked if sampling methods by the City and AENV are coordinated. Ken suggested that this might be supplementary sampling. Brian and Ken agreed to look into the matter and provide an explanation to FEW. On water sampling, FEW would like to play a role in selecting and approving sampling sites for the provincial water sampling program. Furthermore, they would like to see year-round sampling rather than several samples being collected at one time.
4. Ken reported on the status of the Glenmore Reservoir during the current period of high river flows. Flows in the Elbow River have reached 80 m<sup>3</sup>/s (cubic metres per second) and turbidity has reached 180 NTU (nephelometric turbidity units). Winter numbers are 4 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 1 NTU. Reservoir levels have been lowered to allow room for floodwaters, to take the peak off the hydrograph.

### **University of Calgary Study**

The study will include several topics of water quality in the Elbow watershed and will be undertaken by 40 students from September 2002 to April 2003. In the past, the same group conducted a study of the Septic System in Bragg Creek (1999-2000) and Water Quality in Chestermere Lake (2000-01). Research this year will focus on water quality during the low flow period in the Elbow (1988-89 is the only year for which low flow data are available). Husky

Energy has water quality data from the area that Carol will make available to Cathy. A land use study will be conducted for the watershed with GIS. Forestry, grazing areas, and animal unit density will be included. A social science survey will also be conducted from door-to-door. The questions have yet to be determined and Cathy asked for input.

Two Master's Theses will focus on the Elbow watershed. Jerry will set up a monitoring station near Highway 22 at the Boy Scout Camp. Bryer Manwell will monitor septic system plume migration in alluvial aquifers and assess the impact on the river.

Cathy has applied for an NSERC (National Science Engineering Research Council) grant to support this work over several years.

**ACTION:** Cathy will provide an electronic copy of the Environmental Science research projects for our website.

### **Coordinator Update**

A meeting with the author of the Springbank Water and Wastewater is planned for June 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the Springbank Park for all Seasons, located at the corner of Springbank Road and 149<sup>th</sup> Street.

Stakeholder Agreement form is online at [www.erwp.org/join.html](http://www.erwp.org/join.html). The link is working and can be filled out online. Please complete it as soon as possible so that Monique can compile a formal membership list.

River Rafting Trip is planned for Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> depending on stream flow. Information and a waiver sheet have been emailed to everyone. Please pass the information on to your respective groups.

### **Water Quality Committee**

Eric envisions a Water Quality Technical Committee (WQTC), similar to that from the Instream Objectives Working Group. It should be made up of technical people trained in water quality monitoring. The ERWP will articulate problems and the WQTC will educate the ERWP on how to solve the problems. This could be developed into an integrated and coordinated monitoring plan, which could be used to leverage funds through a request for proposals.

**ACTION:** Consider who could sit on the WQTC and discuss with Eric.

It is agreed that our meeting in September will be dedicated to assessing our needs for water quality monitoring and members of this newly forming committee should be present. Brian commented that implementing this committee might be a challenge because the AENV water scientists are very busy. They are very supportive of the initiative and he stressed the need to address the water quality questions first. For example, the FEW has a question about possible sampling duplication and Brian will ask that question to the water scientists. AENV has monitored at several sites for years but the program has been reduced due to funding restraints.

Eric asked for stakeholder groups to formulate their needs for water quality assessment to present to the WQTC. Groups such as FEW, BCEC, Acreages in Springbank, RiverWatch, and the City. We would ask for the professional opinions of the WQTC on how to solve the problems. Cathy suggested questions such as: What are the current most significant sources of water quality deterioration? What are the future needs? And what are the parameters needed to address these problems? Joe asked where this committee would fall in the structure of the ERWP. Ewen suggested safe drinking water and riparian/aquatic habitat should be a baseline need to look at.

Eric quoted from Peter Watson (Director of the Bow Region, AENV) that we must look beyond the water quality numbers and see the land use. Sarah described it as a process of PRESSURE → STATE ← RESPONSE. First we look at the state of the river, and then address the response by dealing with the pressure on the river. It is important to make the connections.

**ACTION:** Each group should identify their needs for watershed assessment and be prepared to articulate them to the WQTC at our next meeting.

At a previous meeting, we had a report from Alberta Environment on water quality. At the upcoming meeting we should ask if there are other reports of water quality analyses that anyone would like to present.

Gloria suggested a sub-committee work during the summer to prepare for this meeting.

**ACTION:** Monique and Eric will provide a list of questions to assist stakeholders in articulating their needs for water quality monitoring.

**ACTION:** Monique will provide a summary article on Watershed Assessment for the newsletter prior to the meeting in September.

### **Society Registration**

The only immediate need for society registration is to become financially independent. Since we have no other need for such status at present, it is decided that we will ask the Bow River Basin Council to continue as money managers for the ERWP for another year.

**Springbank Fair**- the ERWP will be present at the Springbank Fair on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Gloria is the contact person for this event if anyone has ideas for a display.

### **Next Meeting**

Tentatively planned for September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Glencoe Golf and Country Club. Alternate date September 26<sup>th</sup>. We hope to include a walk, lunch and a meeting on the subject of water quality.

Action item requests and all comments can be directed to Monique Dietrich.

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