



Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP) Technical Committee Minutes

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, October 13, 2006

Third Floor Large Boardroom, Alberta Environment Office, 303-2938 11 Street NE, Calgary

AAttending: Rob Wolfe, Al Sosiak, John Jagorinic, J. P. Bechtold, Earl Wilson, Shelley Humphries, Joanne Little, Richard Barss, Fay Westcott, Cathy Ryan, Heather Sinton, Travis Ripley, Matthew Coombs, Gloria Wilkinson (guest), Mark Bennett (recorder).

ACTIONS ITEMS	TIME	RESPONSIBILITY
Send thoughts on outcome statements to Rob Wolfe	ASAP	Rob Wolfe
Coordinate Key Indicator sub-committee conference call	TBA	Rob Wolfe

Action Item: RW. – Talked about “outcome” statements and reminded committee members to send any thoughts they may have on this subject to him.

Referenced the (soon to be released) North / South¹ Report which is looking at where we are in Water Quality, for major river basins. This study was done in accordance with direction set out in the Water For Life Strategy. In some respects it will continue on (or be complementary) to the work in the State of the Basin Report. Release is pending some final revisions and it should be out presently.

Agenda:

Dissolved Oxygen – Al Sosiak and Cathy Ryan

- It seems that Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is likely to be the most limiting factor for water quality d/s of Calgary. Studies have consistently shown that DO levels u/s of the Calgary wastewater treatment plants are well above guideline levels.
- Recent study has confirmed that there was significant scouring of macrophytes in the flood of 2005. However, some slight resurgence of macrophyte growth and DO effects are already becoming evident. Some preliminary data from the summer of 2006 has already been reviewed.
- Some Graduate Studies results reflect just how complex DO and other water quality factors are. It is evident that in the d/s portions of the main study reach (Bears paw to Carseland) the DO guidelines are being approached and this will need to be carefully watched. Remedial actions may be necessitated as the ecosystem rebounds from last year's flood.
- It was pointed out that while Calgary has been recognized for having excellent wastewater treatment in a North American context, it wouldn't appear so exceptional in comparison to some European technologies. Globally recognized “state of the art” treatment will require even greater investment than what is now spent. It is suggested that the presentation of real-time or near real-time data, as anticipated with a water information portal, may serve to better educate and engage the general public. This, in

¹ North / South is the name of the consultant preparing the Report.



turn, may provide a suitable foundation for increasing public expenditures to advance wastewater treatment.

State of Basin Chapters Water Quality Highlights – Fay Westcott

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- Summarized the S of B findings with respect to reaches 4, 5 and 6 (the current study reach).

Total Loading Management Highlights = J.P. Bechtold

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- Summarized work done to date looking at TLL for the City of Calgary.

Fisheries Highlights – Travis Ripley

- Gave a fisheries update and provided some very interesting data on the productivity of the Bow in the study reach. It seems that as productivity increases so does vulnerability and this again suggests a need for careful monitoring.

Administrative Matters:

- Noted that the TC agendas are likely to be very full and action-packed. In order to increase the effectiveness of the group, it was decided that meetings will be lengthened (lunch included, with assistance from all agencies) and when possible information presentation sessions may be done utilizing conference calling capability along with “webex”.
- Rob reminded TC members that any thoughts they have on desired outcomes for the study reach should be forwarded to him at the earliest opportunity.
- Key Indicator(s) Sub-Committee – Formed to focus attention (indicators / outcomes). Will meet via conference call. Comprised of Al Sosiak, Matthew Coombs, Cathy Ryan, J. P. Bechtold, Jon Jagorinic, and Shelley Humphries.

Action Item: Rob will coordinate this conference call, with the goal of developing a more refined list of outcomes and indicators for our discussion at the next BBWMP TC meeting.

Next Meeting:

Friday November 17th

Comment [r1]: These next three sections seem very sparse (one line each). I remember a lot more interesting detail in their presentations. On the fisheries side the general impression was that populations are doing well, with very high population densities, and rapidly growing trout that don't live very long in this reach. Perhaps urge presenters to expand with their key points

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