

BULLETIN # 5/10

Alberta Water Council

- The Alberta Water Council's (AWC) Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Project Team is up and running with representation from the Crop Sector Working Group, the Intensive Livestock Working Group, the irrigation sector, Ducks Unlimited and other environmental organizations, municipalities and the provincial departments of agriculture and transportation.
- The Project Team was created by the AWC as a means to improve understanding of the state of knowledge and management of NPS pollution with a focus on surface water in Alberta.
- This project is expected to take about a year to complete.

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

- The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is one of ten Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC's) in Alberta representing the North Saskatchewan River watershed under the Government of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy.
- The NSWA is close to completing its Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) with the objectives of:
 - Developing strategies, including the establishment of Water Quality Objectives, that will support sustainable use, management, and economic value of the land and water resources in the watershed;
 - Identifying land uses that could affect the sustainability of the watershed and propose strategies to deal with those land use issues;
 - Working with watershed stakeholders and the public in preparing the IWMP to ensure it meets local and regional needs.
- For more information see www.nswa.ab.ca.

Land-use Framework

- The Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council has submitted its final report to the government titled, *Advice to the Government of Alberta Regarding a Vision for the Lower Athabasca Region*.

- The vision document, an online feedback workbook and dates for the public consultations can be found at:
www.landuse.alberta.ca/RegionalPlans/LowerAthabasca/Default.aspx .
- The IWMP noted above will be one of the information pieces provided to the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Committee when it is created sometime in the next few months. The North Saskatchewan is the next Land Use Framework region to be considered in the planning process after the Lower Athabasca and the South Saskatchewan regions.

CEM

- Alberta Environment (AENV) is consulting with stakeholders regarding potential legislative changes needed to implement a cumulative effects management (CEM) system.
- The current focus of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (APEA) is on preventing adverse effects on a project by project basis and usually by regulation.
- The new focus will be on achieving environmental outcomes for a particular place – a watershed for example – looking at the cumulative effects of all activities on the landscape that affect the watershed.
- AENV will be looking at both regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms for achieving the outcomes with an increasing emphasis on incentives to get the results they want – carrots rather than sticks. This will be a big learning curve for AENV.
- The CSWG and ILWG as well as AEPA have been meeting with AENV regularly to make sure the ag sector has a voice in the discussions on both legislative changes and setting outcomes from the early stages. Farmers have a big stake in decisions being made on the landscape but the least voice given their small numbers in society.

CSWG Website

- Coming soon, to an internet connection near you...the CSWG is developing a website in an effort to improve communications between environmental initiatives and the agriculture sector.

Stakeholder Consultations and Upcoming Meetings

- AEPA Water Workshop November 9 at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer, AB (contact deb.sutton@gov.ab.ca).
- Lower Athabasca Regional Plan public consultations.
- Environmental Footprinting for Agriculture, October 26-27, 2010 at the Royal Executive Inn, Leduc, AB (contact kerrianne.koehler-munroe@gov.ab.ca).
- The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Coordination Workshop on September 29 at SAIT in Calgary (see www.casahome.org).