

**Water North Coalition (WNC) – Minutes  
October 8, 2021  
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees**

Advanced Technology Applications (ATAP) – Grant Dixon  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) – Tom Burton  
Alberta Environment and Parks – Okey Obiajulu & Christine Donovan  
Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association – Dan Rites  
Aquatera – Sarah Ball & Tamara Wuttunee-Campbell  
Athabasca Watershed Council – Petra Rowell  
City of Cold Lake – Bob Buckle  
County of Grande Prairie – Bob Marshall  
M.D. of Greenview – Shawn Acton  
Mackenzie County – Len Racher, Eric Jorgensen & John Zacharias  
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo – Kwaku Agyare-Manu  
Saddle Hills County – Willis Fitzsimmons  
Town of Grimshaw – Colleen Sklapsky  
Town of High Level – Keith Straub  
Town of Peace River – Randy Duplis  
Village of Rycroft – Diahann Potrebenko

**Administration**

Megan Beson, Legislative Services Officer – County of Grande Prairie

**Welcome and Roundtable Introduction and Information Sharing**

Chair Bob Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and confirmed attendees.

The following roundtable updates were provided:

- City of Cold Lake – Bob Buckle: Meeting with Minister Nixon regarding Inner-Basin Water Transfer. Provincial position on approvals is dependent on scope, capacity and impact.
- Town of High Level – Keith Straub: MSP Program update. In negotiations with First Nations to partner on wastewater treatment facility.
- Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association – Dan Rites: Working with AEP to provide information on lead program, regulatory requirements for wastewater, source water protection regulations, and water diversion and transfer license in Alberta and will have a speaker for each one of these coming up for our conference in November.

**Review and Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by** Willis Fitzsimmons of Saddle Hills County to accept the agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Draft Minutes for Approval at [Date] Meeting*

**Adoption of Minutes of the June 30, 2021 Virtual Meeting**

**Moved by** Colleen Sklapsky of the Town of Grimshaw that the minutes of the June 30, 2021 WNC Virtual Meeting be accepted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Updates – Alberta Health Services Bact T Sampling**

The following updated was shared from Alberta Health Services regarding Bact T sampling sharing and accessibility of water quality results:

1. Alberta Health Services is working with Dr. Sylvia Checkley, University of Calgary to:
  - a. Identify existing data sharing systems and tools already used in Alberta for storing and disseminating water quality data. This includes drinking water, recreational water and pools.
  - b. Contact and interview key stakeholders to clearly understand their data needs, gaps in sharing data, the type and format of data needed.
  - c. Provide recommendations on how to implement data sharing with stakeholders (the data platform, data format).
2. The Water North Coalition is on the list of key stakeholders, so Sylvia will be contacting the WNC this fall/winter to review and document recommendations on what data could be accessed.

The project will help AHS identify the options to enhance access to water quality information.

There was discussion from the membership regarding current issues being experienced including accessing data and timeliness of results, and timeliness of communication with municipalities when re-sampling is required. Once the WNC has been contacted by Sr. Sylvia Checkley, WNC will draft a letter to the membership.

**Drinking Water and Wastewater Prosecutions Presentation: Craig Kallal**

Craig Kallal, Environmental Prosecutor for Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, provided a presentation on Drinking Water and Wastewater Prosecutions that included tips for management of operators to ensure that municipalities do not have to see a prosecutor.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes for the membership to review.

**Updates – Alberta Environment and Parks**

Okey Obiajulu and Christine Donovan provided an update from AEP. A map showing the boundaries of the five divisions can be found at:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=3fa1cc37da014982847ef5d1a710f61a>

The Boreal Region covers 60% of Alberta and has the largest landmass while the Capital District in the Southern part of the province has the larger population. Most members of the WNC will fall within the Boreal Region. Boreal is a consolidation of 3 districts. From an operational perspective the Boreal Region has one approval team and two compliance teams (one in the Northwest and one in the Northeast). AEP

## *Draft Minutes for Approval at [Date] Meeting*

has tried to streamline the process so that stakeholders will find it easier to engage the department and receive approvals.

Changes have recently been made to digitize the approvals process and all water approval processes have been transitioned into the digital system. It allows stakeholders to follow an application's process online before it is approved.

Changes to the CE requirements includes increases for small systems (to 1.8) and changes safety requirements needed for levels 1 through 4 to better align with other provinces across Canada. There are 9 exam locations across the province and AEP is currently working on securing a location for the Grande Prairie Area. The cost to re-new is new for some operator's this year (\$130), however if the application to re-new is not submitted within the proper timeframe it will increase to \$130 per discipline. The current turn-around time is 7 days to have operator's certified and approved for renewal if everything is in place.

### **Updates – Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Updates from the CAC were covered by Christine Donovan from AEP. The next CAC Meeting will be on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton. No additional updates were provided.

### **Strategic Plan Priority Updates**

The Leadership Committee will be meeting later this fall to review the Strategic Plan and Priorities and update based on the recommendations from WNC members at the June 30, 2021 WNC Meeting. The updated Strategic Plan and Priorities will be brought forward for review by the membership at the WNC Spring Meeting.

Two priorities have been addressed at this meeting including the Bact T Sampling and Inner Basin Transfers.

If any members wish to put their name forward for the Leadership Committee please reach out the Chair, Bob Marshall.

### **Website and Facebook Walk-Through**

Aquatera provided a walk-through of the website and facebook for WNC. Aquatera has taken over the WNC social media and website with objectives to promote key messages, events and initiatives that aligned to WNC, sharing information on water and wastewater regulations, and engaging collaboratively with the membership. If any municipalities have anything they would like to share on either of these platforms email [communications@aquatera.ca](mailto:communications@aquatera.ca) to have it included. The website hosted by Aquatera is now live and available at <https://www.aquatera.ca/transparency-growth/water-north-coalition>

### **Next Meeting Date**

If there is no host for the next meeting it will be held virtually. The next meeting date will be determined by the Leadership Committee following the municipal election and sent out to the membership.

### **Adjournment**

*Draft Minutes for Approval at [Date] Meeting*



**Moved by** Eric Jorgensen of Mackenzie County that the meeting be adjourned at 3:20 p.m.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

DRAFT