

Insider

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We welcome your submissions!
If you have any ideas for our publication or an article to submit for consideration, please send it in and we would be glad to include it.



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President's Message



Dear Member,

With the holiday season near and plenty of snow on the ground, reflection over 2007 is in our thoughts. I want to share with you the accomplishments of 2007.

Over the past 12 months CEMA delivered strong research on Instream Flow Needs to Alberta Environment, and produced a Wetland Guideline. CEMA commissioned Fish Telemetry and Traditional Food Consumption studies and strengthened our relationship with the Aboriginal Community.

We have a new, dynamic and energetic team of employees working daily on the important matters of each working group. There is no doubt that Glen's leadership has been a positive influence on the whole association.

Most importantly we want to highlight the dedication of the of the 44 members groups who spend endless hours in meetings of the different working, sub and task groups.

In 2008, we will see new Management Frameworks from NSNWG, SEWG and TMAC. Countless of other meetings, reports and research will take place, helping to improve the environment of the region.

Finally on behalf of the whole Management Committee I would like to offer all CEMA members, staff, and friends, a happy new year and best wishes for 2008.

Randall

Randall Barrett
CEMA President

Our Mission Statement

Located in Fort McMurray, Alberta, CEMA is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization. Our mandate is to make recommendations on how to best manage cumulative impacts and protect the environment in the region.



Peter Watson, Randall Barrett, Judy Smith and Brad Pickering

On Thursday November, 14, the Management Committee (MC) met with Peter Watson, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment and Brad Pickering, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) in Edmonton. The 90 minute gathering was an opportunity for the MC to update the Deputy Ministers about the good work accomplished by CEMA over the past year and highlight the exciting direction we are heading in 2008.

The Alberta Government is currently reviewing the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (RSDS) for the province. This ongoing review is another example where CEMA can help shape the message before a final product is delivered. In mid December representatives from the MC will be presenting a detailed overview of CEMA and its future work plan. This presentation to a special committee of the Deputy Ministers of Environment, Energy and SRD will no doubt be an important opportunity to showcase our association.

At CEMA we are committed to achieving the goals set out by our membership at a professional level. We are pleased to provide you with our newsletters to inform you about the progress we made.

Nonetheless, we hope you enjoy this issue for Winter 2007 and we look forward to any feedback you might have.

IN THIS ISSUE

From our President	Cover	Trace Metals and Air Containments	Page 3
Management Committee	Cover	Surface Water Working Group	Page 3
TMAC Traditional Food Consumption Study	Below	SEWG and TEK	Page 4
Farewell and Welcome	Page 2	Reclamation Working Group	Page 4
CEMA at Bali	Page 2	NO _x SO ₂ Management Working Group	Page 4
CEMA Online-Members' Login	Page 2	CEMA Coming Events	Page 6
Fort Chipewyan Open House	Page 3	How to Reach Us	Back
Tradition Environmental Knowledge	Page 3		



Front row:
Samantha, Lina
and Mary Ann.

Backrow: Sherry,
Don, Kally, Linda,
Karen, Nadia,
Glenda, Dywayne,
Adam, Ray, Pam,
Vannessa, &
Betty-Ann.

TMAC Traditional Food Consumption Study

The Trace Metals and Air Containments (TMAC) Working Group recommended that a further evaluation of the traditional food being eaten by Aboriginal Peoples in this region was essential.

TMAC's Traditional Food Consumption Study was conducted in the communities of Fort McKay, Fort Chipewyan, Conklin and Fort McMurray from November 13 through December 11th, 2007.

CEMA is especially thankful for the cooperation of the Aboriginal Communities of Conklin Métis local #193, Fort Chipewyan Métis local # 125, Fort McKay First Nations and Métis local # 63 and Fort McMurray local # 2020.

CEMA

Coming Events

January 8	Open House	Fort Chipewyan
January 8	DWPTG	TBC
January 8	RCSG	Fort McMurray
January 9	TMAC	Edmonton
January 10	RWG	Fort McMurray
January 10	WASG	Edmonton
January 10	TEK	Fort McMurray
January 15 - 16	BWSG Workshop	TBC
January 17	MC	Fort McMurray
January 22	DWPTG	TBC
January 23	EPLSG	Edmonton
February 4	SVEG	Fort McMurray
February 5	DWPTG	TBC
February 5	BWSG	TBC
February 6	TMAC	Calgary
February 7	WASG	Calgary
February 12	RCSG	Calgary
February 12 - 13	SEWG	Sawridge Inn, Fort McMurray
February 14	PM/CC/MC	Fort McMurray
February 14	TEK	TBC
February 15	MC	Fort McMurray
March 4	BWSG	TBC
March 5	TMAC	Fort McMurray
March 6	WASG	Fort McMurray
March 11	RWG	Fort McMurray (Tech Symposium)
March 12	RCSG	Edmonton
March 13	MC	Fort McMurray
March 13	RWG	TBC
March 13	TEK	TBC
March 26- 27	GM	Fort McMurray
March 28	EPLSG	Fort McMurray

** Dates and locations are subject to change.
Please call the office or check the website for confirmations.*

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Aboriginal Roundtable

On December 10, CEMA sponsored an Aboriginal Roundtable in Fort McMurray. The daylong session was a chance to explore environmental issues facing the First Nations and Métis communities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Ten Aboriginal Communities in the region participated. The purpose of the Roundtable was to hear the views of Aboriginal Peoples regarding the air, land, water and wildlife in our environment.

The event was chaired by Sandra Cardinal and the facilitator was Narcisse Blood an Elder from the Kainai First Nation. A report on the discussions will be completed in the new year to help improve CEMA's strong commitment to the Aboriginal community.



Aboriginal Roundtable Facilitator Narcisse Blood, illustrates a point during discussion

CEMA Executive Director Glen Semenchuk thanks Roundtable Chair Sandra Cardinal



Participants of the Roundtable listen to Brian Fayant of Fort McMurray Métis 1935

CEMA would like to thank the following groups for attending the Aboriginal Roundtable:

- Bottom of the page: Conklin Métis Local 193
- Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nations
- Willow Lake Métis Local 780
- Fort McMurray Métis Local 1935
- Fort McMurray Métis Local 2020
- Fort McMurray First Nations
- Fort McKay Métis Local 63
- Fort McKay First Nations
- Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125
- Chard Métis Local 214

We would also like to thank the Elders, Members, MC and CEMA staff for their assistance in this production.

A Friendly Farewell and a Warm Welcome

After four short months Linda Aidnell is moving onto another challenge in the region. Starting on January 7th, 2008, Linda will be the new Land Use Coordinator at Mikisew Cree First Nation Industrial Relations Committee. CEMA would like to say to Linda, Tack Så Mycket!

With the ever growing work load, CEMA has hired two new project managers, Josh Burke and Nicole Seaman.

Josh joined CEMA in October and will be taking over as the RWG program manager in the New Year. Originally from Cape Breton Josh has Bachelor of Technology in the areas of Public Health and Environmental



Josh Burke

Health from Cape Breton University. He was previously employed by multiple governmental departments and organizations throughout the country, in his field. His goal is to gain a further understanding of the environmental issues that are created by oil sands development. Josh's folksy manner from the east coast is a welcome addition to the CEMA family.

Nicole started at CEMA in November and will be working with the NSMWG. A native to Fort McMurray, a product of McMurray's 70s oil boom. She is a graduate of the University of Alberta and earned a Science degree specializing in Animal Biology. After a brief residence in Nova Scotia she received a certificate in Aquaculture and worked for 2 years as broodstock biologist. Nicole shares her life with her fiancé Kory, dog Wendy, cat Mogul, and 3 fish.



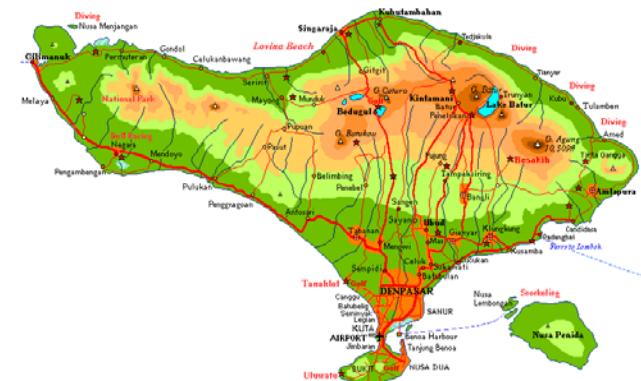
Nicole Seaman

CEMA Member at UN Conference in Bali



Ruth Kleinbub

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is taking place in Bali, Indonesia from December 3 - 14, 2007. Ruth Kleinbub is representing the Federation of Alberta Naturalists at the conference. When asked what she expected out of the trip Ruth said, "The only sure bet at an Environmental conference in Bali is that the weather will be warmer than Fort McMurray!"



CEMA Online—Members' Login

1. Go to www.cemaonline.ca
2. On the left hand site under members login, select Register.
3. Fill out the registration form. Create your own password, user name and don't forget your email address (Hotmail and Gmail accounts can slow down the process).
4. An email will be sent to you requesting confirmation of your registration. You MUST reply to continue the activation process.
5. A confirmation email about the new user's registration will come to CEMA for approval.
6. We will approve you as quick as possible.
7. If a member has registered and lost their password, select lost password and follow the steps.
8. If a member has lost their user name please contact the CEMA office.

Open House Fort Chipewyan

The plane, food and hall are all booked. CEMA is traveling to Fort Chipewyan on Jan 8th. Along with WBEA and RAMP we will be hosting an open house in the community. The first open house in 2008 in Fort Chip will be an opportunity for CEMA representatives to share past accomplishments and future plans with the community members.

Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

Traditional Environmental Knowledge

TEK The Traditional Environmental Knowledge Standing Committee has just undertaken a new project that will document all the TEK related initiatives in the region into a searchable database and annotated bibliography. The project will be an extension of the 2003 bibliography created by Fish Creek Consulting and will capture everything up to December 2007. The project will be completed by FMA Heritage and lead by Jessica Kent, a project manager for the firm. FMA will also review the current bibliography and include material that was missed in 2003. The project is expected to wrap up in April 2008.



At CEMA, we make every effort to keep you updated on the progress of Working and Task Groups as it occurs

Surface Water Working Group (SWWG)

The SWWG has adopted an approach for the development of the Phase II Management Framework that was successfully used in British Columbia for similar issues arising within a multi-stakeholder environment. This structured decision-making process encourages participation from stakeholders in a transparent process promoting equal weighting of the values identified within the watershed for assessment of management alternatives. The process is currently being adapted to suit the needs of the SWWG, and will be implemented in 2008.

The newly formed Socio-economic task group (SETG) had a successful meeting in October, and is now preparing to begin work. The SETG will provide a socio-economic perspective to the SWWG in its development of the Phase II Management Plan, and will work closely with the other task groups to support this recommendation.

Consultants were successfully selected for the Fish Telemetry Study, and work on the project began in late October. However, due to the delays incurred the study has been postponed, with initiation of fish capture to begin in 2008. The SWWG hopes that re-engagement with ACFN Environmental will be possible for the upcoming field season, thereby enhancing the project with necessary TEK and infrastructure.

T M A C

"TMAC has received a draft deliverable from Environ Corp. out of Louisiana, Missouri that prioritizes all the chemicals listed in the NPRI (National Pollutant Release Inventory) that all industrial facilities must report based on different factors like toxicity of the chemical, proximity to the facility, and factors based on physical and chemical properties. The ranking tool will allow TMAC to make informed decisions around setting priorities for air emissions in several target areas such as:

Fort Chipewyan
Fort McKay
Fort McMurray
Anzac
Conklin

The tool is also versatile enough to add further target zones like a favorite fishing hole or hunting area. All you need is GIS coordinates! In addition, the tool will allow TMAC and others the ability to add projected emissions from EIA's (Environmental Impact Assessments) into the software and "estimate" the increased contribution by proposed company "X" on the specified targets. Linking the ranking tool to the NPRI database will also allow for up-to-date data crunching rather than data from 5 or 10 years ago. While bugs are still being worked out with the draft software, it can be found on the CEMA member's only website under TMAC products."

Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

SEWVG and Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK)

Traditional Environmental Knowledge is incorporated into every aspect of CEMA's work. It is the mandate of the TEK Standing Committee to aid CEMA's Working Groups with the incorporation of TEK into their work plans and to recommend other ways in which Aboriginal communities can be involved in the work that CEMA does. SEWVG is no exception and has been working very hard to incorporate TEK and Aboriginal Community input into the work that they do since its inception. Some projects where TEK was specifically targeted in not only the information gathering but also in the design of the project include: Traditional Use Plants, Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity, Resource Use, Historical Trails and most recently the SEWVG Land Management Framework recommendation which is still in its development stages.

Members of each of the First Nation's and Métis in the RMWB cannot always attend the many meetings each Working Group holds over the course of the year so it is even more important

that these community workshops are held to go to the communities for their input if they cannot come to us. Comments from community members such as "involve us at the beginning of the project" and "we want copies of final reports for all community participants" are carefully heeded and actively addressed to meet the needs of the community members so they are assured the mandate is not just lip service.

SEWVG is in the final stages of the development its Land Management Framework recommendation. A workshop was held at the initiation stages to ensure there was community buy-in as to how TEK would be incorporated into the process. Since then SEWVG has also held a TEK Stories workshop to allow traditional stories to be incorporated into text in the Management Framework with respect to managing the land. SEWVG is also planning another workshop in early 2008 to present the draft framework to the communities for input before it is finalized.

Look for the SEWVG Management Framework coming out in Q1-2008.

RWG

Reclamation Working Group

In 2007, the Wetland Establishment on Reclaimed Oil Sands Leases (2nd Edition) that describes reclamation practices for the development of functioning wetland systems in the oil sands region was finalized and was approved by members at the last CEMA general meeting.

There was an update to the Land Capability Classification System (LCCS) Calculator, which included a series of information workshops and is currently available through the CEMA website. RWG is also in the final stages of completing a reclamation database (Reclamation Research Catalogue) that will allow users to search for documents related to reclamation in the oil sands.

In 2008, RWG is focused on the completion of the Guidelines for Reclamation to Forest Vegetation in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region (2nd Edition) that provides a technical guide on how to reclaim forested uplands, including the re-establishment of biodiversity and wildlife indicators as well as an Operational Reclamation Technical Report that provides of review of operational reclamation practices in the oil sands as well as coal industry. Also, in 2008, RWG will explore the development of monitoring programs, certification guidelines and workshops.

NO_x SO₂ (NSMWG)

The NSMWG and the Terrestrial Environmental Effects Monitoring (TEEM) Group of WBEA recently held a Researchers' Workshop to review the status of the various research projects being conducted for TEEM and the NSMWG to confirm that they were achieving the intended outcomes. Researchers from Canada, the US, Germany and Britain came together to discuss linkages between projects. NSMWG and TEEM members identified possible gaps. There was also an opportunity for researchers to discuss linkages between projects and for researchers and NSMWG and TEEM members to identify possible gaps and overlaps in the

work being conducted. The topics covered included passive ambient air quality monitoring, nitrogen and sulphur cycling in upland areas, nitrogen cycling in wetlands, environmental effects monitoring, emission source characterization, deposition and lichen monitoring. NSMWG-TEEM work with scientists from around the world who are leading edge with respect to understanding boreal forest systems. The Workshop was an excellent forum for discussing ideas and research findings. Further similar workshops are planned for 2008.