



Insider

Volume 2, Spring 2007



Dear friends,

After being an active member of the CEMA for several years, I was pleased to be chosen as your new President.

On behalf of CEMA's members I would like to express our gratitude to Sue Lowell for her hard work as the past president. Sue's professionalism and dedication is an inspiration for us all.

In the past CEMA has successfully faced challenges associated with a young but maturing association.

We have overcome tough challenges before and based on our past success I look forward to working with you this upcoming year to face new challenges and build new opportunities. I see a bright, strong and full year ahead.

We have a newly minted executive director and two more full time staff to continue the already ongoing and excellent work undertaken by our energetic team at the Morrison Centre. We also have important new recommendations on ecosystems and reclamation coming forward this year.

I am convinced that this foundation built on the professionalism, hard work and dedication that we all have for CEMA will make the year 2007 -08 a remarkable one.

I look forward to working closely with each of you.

Best wishes,

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.

Special Aboriginal Edition



Chief Jim Boucher watches drummers from Fort Smith during a ceremony at the Fort McKay Open House

In this special edition of *The Insider* we focus on listening and learning with the Aboriginal People in the Wood Buffalo region. Northeastern Alberta has long been the home of Aboriginal People, dating back at least 9,000 years.

First Nations and Métis have a good understanding about the cumulative environmental effects in the Wood Buffalo region and share a clear, experienced and first hand account of the land, air and water in our region.

CEMA has built an important relationship with its Aboriginal members who include: Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McKay Métis Local #63, Fort McMurray Métis #2020, Fort McMurray #468 First Nation, Conklin Métis Local #193, Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation and the Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125.

CEMA continues to work with Aboriginal communities who are not currently members of the association.

We are proud to introduce our new website and we

encourage you to visit us at:

www.cemaonline.ca

Please note the special section
for members only.
Register today!

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 make. Progress is positive but at times, certain issues require more time to resolve than others.

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

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New Executive Officers

At its annual meeting in February, CEMA elected and re-elected new executive members for the Management Committee. The year 2007-08 promises to be both challenging and exciting for CEMA, members, stakeholders, and staff. We ALL look forward to working with the new Management Committee:

President:	<i>Randall Barrett</i>
Vice - President:	<i>Judy Smith</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Ruth Kleinbub</i>
Secretary:	<i>Ann Dort-MacLean</i>
Officer At Large:	<i>Cheryl Baraniecki</i>
Officer At Large:	<i>Jumbo Fraser</i>
Officer At Large:	<i>Don Sutherland</i>
Officer At Large:	<i>Stuart Nadeau</i>
Officer At Large:	<i>Chris Severson-Baker</i>

Natural Resources Committee

As mentioned in the last edition of *The Insider* CEMA's vice-president, Judy Smith, and Executive Director, John McEachern, presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

CEMA was mentioned in the committee's report *The Oil Sands: Toward Sustainable Development* tabled on March 26.

The committee's report stated "CEMA's role and the important contribution of its work to date, the committee's view is that its role is *complementary* to the legislative responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments with respect to the assessment of cumulative impacts".

The committee recognized the strength and work of CEMA's working groups, members, staff and Management Committee. This acknowledgment is a strong reminder of the significant work accomplished and ongoing by all members of the CEMA team.

CEMA at Athabasca Water Basin Conference

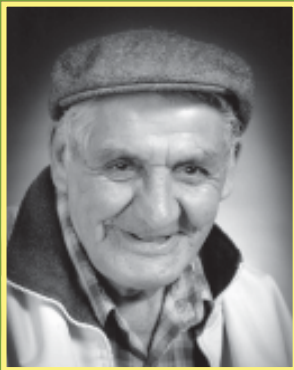
On June 2nd our President Randall Barrett had a challenging but interesting experience while presenting CEMA's work on surface water issues in the Wood Buffalo region at the Athabasca Water Basin Conference in the town of Athabasca. The conference included a touching tribute to the work of environmental activist Martha Kostuch who has recently been struck with Parkinson's disease. Aboriginal representatives from Northwest Territories and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, and Fort McKay First Nation participated in the conference. The conference organizers brought together several prominent critics of environmental management in Alberta with the hope of galvanizing efforts to set up a Water Planning and Advisory Committee for the Athabasca basin.

Randall focused on three themes: CEMA accomplishments thus far on

water matters; current ongoing projects and research; and where we will be in years ahead.

During lively discussion at the open forum later in afternoon, Randall participated in the panel with all members attending the conference and explained CEMA's approach to water issues. He also showcased the excellent work of CEMA on water issues and how our experience can assist any new Water Planning and Advisory Committee with direction on water related matters.

Several participants expressed frustration with the government, management of industrial development and exasperation with industry actions and the government consultation process. A call for direct community-based action, legal action, and less emphasis on cooperative, multi-stakeholder processes for environmental management was a strong message to panel members.



A Tribute to William Woodward

Our friend, Bill Woodward passed away on April 29, 2007. Bill was an endearing friend to CEMA and was much appreciated by the many volunteers, staff and members of the association.

Bill was born in Big River, Saskatchewan and moved to

Fort McMurray at the young age of 13. In 1943, at the height of the Second World War, Bill joined the Canadian Forces and was quickly deployed to the front lines in Italy. In 1944, Bill was captured by the Nazi's and spent more than 200 days as a POW in Munich, Germany.

After the war, Bill married the love of his life, Nancy. Together, they had 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Nancy and Bill would have marked their 60th wedding anniversary on May 10th.

To support his young family, Bill worked as a rail worker, a contractor and in housing at Syncrude. He spent many days in the bush hunting and trapping on the land that he loved so much up until passing.

Bill was a major supporter of CEMA and its efforts. He attended meetings, willingly shared his Traditional Environmental Knowledge and was known to assist the researchers on more than one occasion, sharing his extensive field knowledge of the local area.

Bill was the epitome of 'the family man', but he was also an Oilers fan, a healer and a practical joker. Bill Woodward's spirit will continue to live on in those who knew him.

This gentle man will be missed by many...forgotten by none.

Updates

Providing you with updates on Working Groups and Committees

Reclamation Working Group (RWG) Wetland and Aquatics Subgroup

Reaching out to the aboriginal community

The Wetland and Aquatics Subgroup has just started a new project to create an indigenous wetland classification. By working with local communities, this project will document how regional indigenous people understand wetlands, such as muskeg and marshes. This in turn will provide a set of values that First Nations and Métis people want to see restored on the land.

Update

The Wetlands and Aquatics Subgroup has completed extensive research and after hard work, the sub-committee has prepared a new recommendation for Wetlands in the Wood Buffalo region. The *Guideline for Wetland Establishment on Reclaimed Oil Sands Leases* (Wetlands Guideline) focuses on the technical aspects of building a wetland, including the creation of muskeg, marshes and shallow ponds. The Wetlands Guideline will be forwarded as a recommendation to the government soon.

Trace Metals and Air Contaminants

Food Study Consumption

TMAC is currently undertaking a study to quantify the consumption of traditional foods in First Nations and Métis communities in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region.

The project is designed to collect representative information on the types of traditional foods consumed and the amounts and seasonality of consumption. This information will be available for use in risk assessments completed in the region, and for other regional studies and initiatives.

A secondary objective of the study is to record any concerns people express about their health or the health of the environment during the interviews and to answer people's questions to address their concerns as much as possible. The information will be used by TMAC in the development of the management framework to ensure that it will address the issues of greatest importance to people.

Interviews start in September 2007, in a community near you.

Surface Water Working Group (SWWG)

Instream Flow Needs Technical Task Group (IFNTTG) successfully conducted an expert workshop for instream flow needs monitoring requirements in the lower Athabasca River. The purpose of this workshop was to develop suitable monitoring indices to provide an understanding of how the lower Athabasca River ecosystem responds to changes in flow. Thirteen experts from across North America in fields ranging from fish ecology, fish conservation & physiology, hydrology, ice processes and water quality met in Calgary with IFNTTG and SWWG members in March.

The next step for the monitoring program is to conduct a suitable forum for discussion amongst aboriginal groups to determine monitoring requirements from a traditional environmental perspective. It is the ultimate goal of the SWWG to incorporate knowledge gained from both workshops when developing the monitoring program recommendation.

NO_x SO₂ (NSMWG)

Management Working Group

The Working Group objective for NO_x and SO₂ emissions, as they relate to ozone, is to design a management system and plan to address ground-level ozone and its effects on both vegetation and health.

The NSMWG has initiated 2 contracts for 2007 that will be completed by the end of the year. One deals with improving the database for sensitive soils in the Region and consists of a sampling program that will provide the soil properties

required as inputs to the regional acid deposition model being run in 2009. The other consists of a review of current information on biodiversity in the region to determine whether it can be used as a baseline against which to measure/assess possible eutrophication impacts. In addition to these contracts, there are university research grants related to an Acidification Research program that are ongoing. This research program is now in its third year and will continue until 2009.

Sustainable Ecosystem Working Group (SEWG)

SEWG is quickly approaching the completion of its Land Management Framework recommendation scheduled for completion in early 2008. SEWG met May 29th-31st to review the results of the majority of their spatial and aspatial modeling looking at various development scenarios. These scenarios were contrasted against the base case of proposed development in the oilsands region as provided by the Department of Energy. Development was forecasted beyond the latest EIA's, 100 years into the future with peak bitumen production going from the current >1 million barrels per day (bpd) to ~4 million bpd. Maps of likely forecasted areas of intensive development were produced and reviewed. The impacts of the development on wildlife indicators were also analyzed.

The next steps for SEWG will include running the models again and conducting a sensitivity analysis to test the effects of increased (doubling) bitumen development and reclamation success less than projected in EIAs. Those results will be reviewed in September and help to inform management tradeoff decisions. Updates on this work will be provided in the next edition of this newsletter.

What is Traditional Environmental Knowledge?

TEK YANISOT'INE BACH'ANIE NADARI NIOGHE K'OJA

Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) is a body of local environmental knowledge and beliefs transmitted through oral tradition and first hand observation based on living in close contact with nature. This knowledge was acquired through generations unknown. It includes a system of classification, a set of empirical observations about the local environment, a system of self management that governs sustainable resource base, and an understanding of the relationships of living beings (including humans) with one another and their environment. Environmental aspects are closely tied to social and spiritual aspects of the knowledge system. The quantity and quality of TEK varies among community members, depending upon gender, age, social status, intellectual capability, and profession (hunter, spiritual leader). TEK is both cumulative and dynamic, building upon the experience of earlier generations and adapting to the new technological and socioeconomic changes of the present.

Yaniso t'ine bech'anie nadari nioghe k'oja (TEK) hułi azi yodokenari nedari niöke t'at the sila dayeneghi?i thi bet'ë beghelna nidhaila belł nederi ni k'e t'a ät'e. Thi belł begahi elłgeni tahalya kontu senerelya, yureldza, danet'e thi ou yodoke narı niöghe k'oja, begahi elłgeni tahalya nithi theni ta zit'ela ednanetni beghodi o theni t'azitili holi ok'alasza at'e t'a sie beta eghene la naderi niöt'a, sugharuhtth'l elehundi o t'asë eghena thi dene thi ilah ilghesi ut'e nadari ně ěk'ě. Nadari ně ökö ilach'e nithaele thitlocho lel t'e neoghe eel dagheda yedariye beghol? Ta k'oreja begah elłgni ta halya atı. T'anelt'o, t'unto nezoho yaniso t'ine bech'anie nadari nioghe k'oja elghe ch'a ıtı t'a hayorelyla ilahharelata ıtı usi deneyu thi, ts'kwi hota, beghayet'aho nadeiri neoghe elel dagheda unt'eho dene t'tıholt'ahasiho, t'atu benehułsiho, ta haralt'esiho thi ta'ahedghalnaho, nalzë dene ho t'oho, yadarye dene bonel?to. Yaniso t'ine bech'anie nadari nioghe k'oja (TEK) elel neshecholelt'a thi ho?cholut'a thi t'asi holeöt'ahönisi t'a beghochenisi eyou t'aots' dene nisi yagharol? Thi t'sihă tegothi chuchuna t'e 'to beghalad beta eghana kothero tıö dzinë

Open House

Fort McKay



John McEachern illustrates a point with Elders at the Fort McKay Open House

In March, CEMA along with Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program (RAMP) and Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) began a series of open houses with the Aboriginal communities of Conklin, Fort McKay and Anzac.

The goal of all open houses was to communicate CEMA's important role to the Aboriginal Elders, leaders and community members and have a healthy dialogue regarding the environmental cumulative effects of development in the Wood Buffalo region.

In Conklin on March, 20th CEMA, RAMP and WBEA presented their roles to the community in a friendly and personal way. Members of each organization enjoyed an interactive session with very inquisitive grade six student from the Conklin Community School.

On May 13, in Fort McKay, a day-long session was held outdoors at the Arbour in a beautiful setting, which reminded us all of the importance of the rich land in the Fort McKay region.

Over 50 Elders attended and many more community members joined a lively discussion on environmental issues. The presence of Fort McKay First Nations Chief Jim Boucher helped illustrate the strong working relationship between CEMA and the Traditional Environmental Knowledge Standing Committee.

Finally on June 5, we held the third open house of the spring in Anzac, a community located on the banks of the Gregoire Lake. At the community centre, citizen's had an informed discussion about the environmental effects of oil sands developments in the Anzac region. Discussion was spirited and CEMA, RAMP and WBEA staff enjoyed meeting with the Elders and residents of Anzac.

Anzac



Ann Dort-MacLean presenting at the Anzac open house

CEMA staff Maggie and Dan have an interactive session with grade six students

Conklin



CEMA would like to thank the Elders, First Nations and Métis of Fort McKay, First Nations and Métis of Anzac and the First Nations and Métis of Conklin for their help and participation in the three open houses. We will see you again next year!

CEMA Up Coming Events

June 12-13 th	General Meeting Fort McMurray - Sawridge Inn
June 14 th	Traditional Environmental Knowledge Standing Committee Fort McMurray Sawridge Inn
June 19 th	Joint Meeting Program Managers, Managements Committee and Committee Chairs Twin Atria – Edmonton
June 20 th	Management Committee Edmonton
June 20 th	Watershed Integrity Task Group Fort McMurray
June 26 th	Instream Flow Needs Technical Task Group Edmonton
June 27 th	Surface Water Working Group Edmonton
July 3	Sarah Kent's cast comes off!
July 18 th	Management Committee
August 15 th	Management Committee
August 30 th	NOx SO2 Management Working Group Calgary, Shell Center

How to Reach Us



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