

2005 YEAR in REVIEW Butte Action Committee

CCS had plans for oilfield wasteland fill west of Highway 22 between Sundre and Caroline. BAC was involved in the discussions as a member of the SPOG sub-committee. The group met with CCS as well as did the research on water well depths in that region. A landfill cannot be within 300 meters of surface water or 100 meters of ground water. There are very shallow water wells registered in that area. CCS dropped their plans due to ground & surface water concerns.

TRAC ...Tay River Advisory Committee, which was set up to involve all the stakeholders (farmers, trappers, guide and outfitters, recreation users, municipal, civic, government, and environmental groups) in the development of the sour gas field in the Tay River area by Shell and Mancal, has a BAC representative. They are moving along with plans for 2 new sour gas wells & possibly 3 with the consensus of all stakeholders. Northrock is now involved with drilling in this area as well

MAC MultiStakeholder Advisory Committee for CBM has finished their report. It was sent to the public for comments, revised and sent to minister. Don Bester has been asked to sit on the board

RDRWA...Red Deer River Watershed Alliance. There is a BAC member on the board of directors. They have met with stakeholders, have set up their society status, secured funding, set some initial objectives and set up committees. BAC is on the communication committee. Their AGM is set for February 24 at 1:15 at the Olds Faculty Centre, Olds College.

A presentation was made to the **Pine Lake Surface Rights Action Group** at the Aberdeen Hall by Don Bester to increase their awareness of water issues and CBM.

Judy Winter made a presentation to **SOMAG** (Sunchild O'Chiese Mutual Aid Group) on behalf of BAC and Synergy Alberta.

BAC set up their display board in Olds for a **C-MAG** (County of MountainView Advisory Group) and fielded many questions from landowners.

Our web site was updated and reports from the various members of the above committees will be put on several times a year. We get an average of 4 hits a week.

Our group is listed on the SynergyAlberta website with our website attached.

BAC joined with many other environmental and surface rights groups to form the **Coalition for Alberta's Future** (CFAF). The vision of the CFAF is a united, larger group will have a stronger voice.

A number of BAC directors traveled to Edmonton to take in the SynergyAlberta conference. BAC members provided several presentations to the conference... one on synergy and one for mutual learning called the farm game.

The farm game went to SPOG, ConocoPhillips, International Association of Public Participants (IAP2) & to a discussion of a multi stakeholder game.

BAC also participated in the **CSUG** (Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas) conference in Calgary.

Don Bester has been busy fielding calls from landowners east of Innisfail who have questions concerning their water supply in view of the increased CBM activity in their area. It is possible that the extreme frac-ing used on the coal seams has impacted the aquifers. Some water wells in the area have had to be replaced.

Devon Energy received a Stewardship award from CAPP for its water policy changes. They have reduced their use of fresh water in their Ferrier field, returned unused allocations to Alberta Environment, increased the use of produced or recycled water in other oil fields, and are using brackish water in their heavy oil operations. They are repeating the words that fresh water is too precious to be removed from the water cycle.

It appears that any applications for fresh water floods that make it to the appeal process are told that they will possibly be granted a reduced water license for one year with the condition that they find alternate methods to enhance their oil recovery. It does not make economic sense for a company to put money into a freshwater facility for one year, so they go directly to an alternated method.

There is increased interest in using CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery. The company, Glencoe Resources, is using the CO₂ from the Joffre and Prentiss areas and pipelining it to a Ponoka area field... a distance of 80 kilometers. It has been suggested that a pipeline of 800 kilometers is quite reasonable. The idea is that this is much more efficient than water to enhance oil recovery. There is potential to set up facilities in the Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Fort McMurray areas.

ConocoPhillips will be meeting with us soon to give us their report on their plans to reduce fresh water use. They did not meet with us last year as planned.

The Butte Action Committee was approached by Bethany Beale, a Master's student from the U of C, asking if BAC would like to assist her with her thesis project on synergy. She has met with several directors and plans to attend a meeting, if possible.

The year 2005 indicates that BAC is true to its motto of "cooperation not confrontation" as we have been working with a number of other groups to help keep water's focus high. As well, with our web site, presentations, and phone calls we have met our mandate to help educate others on "the need to protect fresh water for future generations".

Judy Winter Feb 4/06