

COMMENTS FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Since the AEPA was formed in 2008, it has served as a valuable forum for partners from the agriculture sector and government to discuss and address common agri-environmental policy issues in the province.

Using a consensus-based approach, the AEPA offers an opportunity for partners to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of issues, as well as better understand perspectives of other organizations. This results in broad based input into various policy development processes.

Having input is critical since agriculture is a significant land manager and the number one renewable and sustainable resource in the province, generating substantial social, economic and environmental benefits.

As we move into 2016-2017 and beyond, working collaboratively will be of increasing importance as agri-environmental issues become more complex. Ongoing topics including the LUF, ecosystem services, and water, as well as emerging topics such as the Climate Change Strategy, GF3, and social licence, will require meaningful engagement between the agriculture sector and government to help ensure continued generation of benefits in the future.

We would like to thank all partner organizations and members of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups (including LUF, Water, and Planning) for their significant contributions and continued commitment to the AEPA. We look forward to working together again in 2016-2017.

Martin Van Diemen
Industry Co-Chair

Sean Royer
GOA Co-Chair

ABOUT US

Advisory Committee members (previously 'Board') are committed to the development of informed, proactive, trustworthy, credible and relevant input into agri-environmental policy development processes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED
Martin Van Diemen	Industry Co-Chair
Sean Royer	Government of Alberta Co-Chair
CROP INDUSTRY	
Terry James/Shannon Sereda	Alberta Barley Commission
Steve Marshman/Ward Toma	Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Tim van der Hoek/Leanne Fischbuch	Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
John Wozniak/Erin Gowriluk	Alberta Wheat Commission
Terence Hochstein	Potato Growers of Alberta
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY	
Herman Bulten/Diana O'Hara	Alberta Elk Commission, Alberta Goat Breeders Association, Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Reindeer Association, Alberta Whitetail and Mule Deer Association, Bison Producers of Alberta, Horse Industry Association of Alberta, Ostrich Association of Alberta
Rich Smith/Bryan Walton	Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Mike Froese/David Hyink	Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta
Lorrie Jespersen/John Wurz	Alberta Milk
Will Kingma/Darcy Fitzgerald	Alberta Pork
ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENT	
Tracy Scott	Ducks Unlimited Canada
GOVERNMENTS	
Dave Burdek/Sean Royer	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Soren Odegard/Pat Gordeyko	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Andy Ridge	Alberta Environment and Parks
LIAISON	
Don Reiter/Candace Vanin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AEPA thanks representatives who stepped down this past year and welcomes new representatives. AEPA also acknowledges the support of partner organizations, Crop Sector Working Group and Intensive Livestock Working Group for their continued commitment.

CONTACT

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PROGRESS REPORT 2015-2016



AEPA Agri-Environmental
Partnership of Alberta

WHO WE ARE

A diverse partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and an environmental non-government organization, working together to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective.

A consensus-based forum for discussion of policy issues including the Land-Use Framework (LUF) and water.

A unified voice providing advice and input into policy development processes.

OUR PURPOSE

Vision

Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance.

Mission

To engage and build knowledge of partner organizations which enable the AEPA to provide credible, proactive, and respected input to agri-environmental policy development processes.

WHAT WE DO

Strategic Priorities

1. Engage in agri-environmental policy development processes including land-use, water, air and biodiversity.
2. Provide timely policy input on innovations and emerging opportunities that will help the agriculture industry achieve environmental sustainability.
3. Engage and build understanding with partners and stakeholders to enable the agriculture industry to be a credible partner in agri-environmental policy development processes.

OUR WORK IN 2015-2016

2015-2016 was a significant year for the AEPA, both in our operation and progress on strategic priorities.

Effective April 1, 2015, the new AEPA Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 was implemented, including the new Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities. Martin Van Diemen, an original member representing the poultry industry, also became the new Industry Co-chair.

Policy issues addressed this year were the continued development of the LUF, implementation of the new Wetland Policy, and the Climate Leadership Discussion.

In regards to the LUF, AEPA and partner organizations participated in various consultations related to Environmental Management Frameworks, both in the North Saskatchewan Region and South Saskatchewan Region (specifically Biodiversity). The AEPA Advisory Committee and LUF Working Group also engaged in work related to ecosystem services.

In regards to the implementation of the new Wetland Policy, the AEPA Advisory Committee and Water Working Group discussed issues and tools to assist partner organizations and their producers in better understanding how agriculture may be impacted.

In regards to the Climate Leadership Discussion, AEPA submitted consensus input to the Climate Change Advisory Panel and attended the Government of Alberta (GOA) technical engagement session.

To further build knowledge with partners on issues related to social licence and water, AEPA hosted a tour of the City of Calgary Wastewater Treatment Centre and Loblaw's Distribution Centre. AEPA also communicated with partners through tools identified in its Communications Plan, including the website, e-newsletter, and monthly updates.

This year AEPA also had opportunities to engage with the Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (AF), the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks, AF Deputy Minister (DM) Bev Yee, and former AF DM Jason Krips.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016-2017

As the AEPA looks forward to 2016-2017, engagement in LUF and water related policy development processes will continue. This will include responding to the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council Recommendations Report and Draft Regional Plan when released, participating in the Regional Advisory Council nominee process for any new regions, and staying engaged in the implementation of the Wetland Policy. This will also include staying updated in work related to ecosystem services.

The AEPA will also stay engaged and provide input in the development of details in the Climate Change Strategy as it impacts agriculture, agri-environmental aspects of the social licence issue, development of Growing Forward 3 (GF3), as well as address other relevant issues as they emerge.



VISION:
Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance