

COMMENTS FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan gave our partners the opportunity to step back and reflect on AEPA's work.

During the process, the Advisory Committee commented on the value AEPA provides to their organizations, including:

- A unique forum to directly engage in dialogue and build relationships with policy decision makers and influencers
- Opportunity to increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of relevant issues and perspectives resulting in informed policy input



It is important for our partners to continue to see the value of AEPA. They are organizations that provide significant time and resources participating on the Advisory Committee and Working Groups. Diverse perspectives are essential to producing informed policy input.

This year we were pleased to increase our diversity and welcomed a new partner organization. The Alberta Sugar Beet Growers joined the Potato Growers of Alberta under the Specialty Crops industry category. We look forward to their participation and involvement in the years to come.

We would like to welcome Don Shepert as the incoming Industry Co-Chair for the next three years.

We also want to thank our partner organizations and members of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups for their continued commitment to AEPA; we look forward to working together as we move into our next Strategic Plan.

Martin Van Diemen
Industry Co-Chair

Sean Royer
GOA Co-Chair

www.agpartners.ca

ABOUT US

Advisory Committee members 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 (AS OF APRIL 2018)
Don Shepert	Industry Co-Chair
Sean Royer	Government of Alberta Co-Chair
CROP INDUSTRY	
Neil Gorda/Shannon Sereda	Alberta Barley Commission
Dan Doll/Ward Toma	Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Leanne Fischbuch	Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
John Wozniak	Alberta Wheat Commission
Terence Hochstein/Melody Garner-Skiba	Specialty Crops: Potato Growers of Alberta, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY	
Lorrie Jespersen/Martin Van Diemen	Alberta Milk
Mark Wipf/Darcy Fitzgerald	Alberta Pork
Rich Smith/Bryan Walton	Beef: Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Mike Froese/Dennis Steinwand	Poultry: Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta
Tanis Downey	Diversified: 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
ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENT	
Tracy Scott	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Howie Bjorge	ALUS Canada
GOVERNMENTS	
Paul McLauchlin	Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Ronda Goulden/Karen Wronko	Alberta Environment and Parks
Dave Burdek/Sean Royer	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
LIAISON	
Don Reiter/Candace Vanin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AEPA would like to thank members who stepped down this past year and welcome new representatives.

AEPA also acknowledges the support of partner organizations, Crop Sector Working Group, and Intensive Livestock Working Group for their continued commitment.



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Photos courtesy of Alberta Sugarbeet Growers, Alberta Chicken Producers

PROGRESS REPORT

2017-2018



WHO WE ARE

- Multi-stakeholder partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and environmental non-government organizations, working to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective
- Consensus-based forum providing advice and input into agri-environmental policy development processes on topics related to the Land-use Framework (LUF), water, and climate change
- Forum to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of agri-environmental issues relevant to the agriculture industry

OUR PURPOSE

VISION

Agri-environmental policies are balanced and support sustainable industry growth

MISSION

To provide credible, proactive, and evidence-based input into agri-environmental policy development processes

OUR VALUES

Collaborative – Partners share ownership in achieving the vision

Informed – Partners increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of issues for sound input into policy development processes

Proactive – Partners provide effective input into policy development processes through early and continuous engagement

Trustworthy – Partners earn respect through active participation, transparent communication, and investment in relationships

Credible – Partners contribute timely and relevant input to maintain the well-regarded reputation of AEPA's diverse partnership

Relevant – Partners keep abreast of current and emerging issues that add value to policy development processes

WHAT WE DO

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Provide timely policy input on innovations and emerging opportunities that will help the agriculture industry achieve environmental sustainability in areas such as land-use, water, and climate change
2. Engage and build knowledge and understanding with partners organizations to enable the agriculture industry to be credible stakeholder in agri-environmental policy development processes

OUR WORK

This was the final year of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

Our main focus was to increase partners' awareness, knowledge, and understanding of relevant agri-environmental issues. Building relationships was a key step in the process.

We saw issues related to land-use and water, with an increased focus on climate change, returning as primary issues this year. In conjunction with the next step in the Government of Alberta's (GOA's) Climate Leadership Plan (CLP), the Advisory Committee tasked the Land-use Framework (LUF) Working Group with developing an approach AEPA could use to further address the topic.

This included Advisory Committee engagement with CEOs of public agencies who invest funds associated with the CLP, including Emissions Reduction Alberta, Alberta Innovates, and Energy Efficiency Alberta.

The Water Working Group prioritized building awareness and understanding of on-farm surface water management, including how to balance environmental sustainability with economic viability. An initial strategy was developed with the intent to identify and recommend options on how best to address these challenges from a policy perspective.

Throughout the year AEPA contributed to policy and program development for the new *Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)*. CAP is a successor to Growing Forward 2 and comes into effect April 1, 2018. We were able to work with our partners to provide both general agriculture and organization-specific feedback.

The Advisory Committee also spoke directly with senior GOA staff, including AF Deputy Minister Bev Yee, about policy of relevance to AEPA.

A tour was organized for our partners including the Farm Stewardship Centre in Lethbridge and Lethbridge BioGas. This tour was an opportunity to learn about sustainability initiatives on the ground.

The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan was developed and approved, providing AEPA direction for the next three years.

This was also the final year of the three year term for the Industry Co-Chair. We would like to thank Martin Van Diemen for his leadership, dedication, and contribution in helping AEPA move forward on Strategic Priorities.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018-2019

Entering into the first year of our new three year plan we will continue to focus on land-use, water, and climate change.

We will continue to increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of issues, as well as seek opportunities to provide input into policy development processes. We will also continue to increase engagement and build relationships with policy decision makers and influencers.

The LUF Working Group will continue to gain a better understanding of climate change and its potential impact on agriculture. They will work on the topics of adaptation and the carbon offset market, and contribute input when opportunities arise.

The Water Working Group will move forward with the strategy to help address challenges related to on-farm surface water management, including developing options to address issues through policy input.

Both Working Groups will review the draft North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP) when released and recommend feedback to the Advisory Committee for consensus input.

We welcome the new Industry Co-Chair, Don Shepert, who steps into the role on April 1, 2018.

