

**Summary of Public Consultation for the
Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel**

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Executive Summary

On March 11, 2006, Alberta Environment hosted a workshop for members of the Lake Wabamun community at the Jubilee Hall in the Village of Wabamun. The event was designed to discuss the purpose, governance, and structure of a Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel. Invitations were widely circulated to all the stakeholder groups and municipal councils around the lake, and posted on the AENV website. Approximately 20 people attended. The Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel was first proposed by Dr. David Schindler in his report titled "*Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts*", as a forum for communication among stakeholders in the community and to provide guidance in the protection of the lake's aquatic health. Both residents and stakeholder groups within the basin had an opportunity to provide their comments at the workshop, and by submitting a worksheet prepared to facilitate the development of a draft Terms of Reference for the Panel.

Participants of the workshop expressed strong support of the proposal for a consensus-based collaborative approach to watershed stewardship, and instructed AENV to proceed with the formation of the Citizens' Panel. The Citizens' Panel would subsequently review any further feedback received by the community, and ratify a Terms of Reference using this report as a guide. However, participants also had some concerns that past public consultation processes within this community have been largely ineffective at addressing the cumulative impacts of all users of the watershed, and a review of past processes was warranted to ensure the success of the Citizens' Panel. There was strong support for protecting ecosystem values within the lake, and strong support for the Citizens' Panel to play a lead role in the development of a Watershed Management Plan to protect these values. However, questions remained regarding the group's authority in implementing such a plan. A collaborate partnership of federal, provincial, and local governments, with strong representation of the various citizen-based groups and communities around the lake was seen as a logical option for addressing the issues and finding common solutions. To help facilitate the development of the Panel, Alberta Environment will be announcing a call for nominations and distributing nomination forms commencing May 8, 2006. Interested members of the community will have until June 19, 2006 to forward a nomination for representation within their sector. The first Citizens' Panel meeting will follow shortly in late July or early August.

Report at a Glance

This report is a reflection of the viewpoints and feedback Alberta Environment received following a visioning workshop held on March 11, 2006 at the Jubilee Hall in the Village of Wabamun. Feedback was collected during three facilitated breakout sessions at the workshop, and from written responses to the worksheets broadly circulated in advance of the workshop and posted on the AENV website.

The purpose of this report is to provide all members of the greater Lake Wabamun community an opportunity to review what has been said, and evaluate whether this feedback has been successfully captured for a draft Terms of Reference for the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel. Comments to this report will be reviewed by stakeholder

representatives at the first Citizens' Panel meeting, prior to ratification of a Terms of Reference.

The first section of this report provides a general overview of the major points recorded in each of the three discussion areas, and presents options for how this feedback could be incorporated into a draft Terms of Reference. The three discussion areas are:

- The Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Citizens' Panel
- The Guiding Principles and Governance of the Citizens' Panel
- The Composition of the Citizens' Panel

The Next Steps section provides a brief summary of the public consultation process to date regarding the establishment of a Citizens' Panel on Lake Wabamun, and outlines additional opportunities for how individuals and stakeholders can contribute to this initiative.

The attached appendices include the proceedings of each of the breakout sessions at the workshop, as well as all written comments received from the worksheets and workshop evaluations. Opinions and comments are those of individuals and groups participating in the consultation process. These comments were recorded verbatim and are reported as "*blue scripted font*" in this report. In total, 20 individuals representing a cross section of residents, local, provincial and federal governments, and recreational and environmental groups attended the workshop. In addition, 14 completed worksheets were received by AENV as written feedback. Also included in this report is a summary prepared by the workshop facilitator, Catrin Owen who provided an independent assessment of the major points discussed at the workshop.

Vision, Mission and Objectives for the Citizens' Panel

Shared Values:

Residents and community representatives see value in the need for a group on the lake to oversee watershed management planning and coordinate opportunities for public engagement in stewardship projects. Many participants at the workshop, however, also expressed frustration of past consultation processes at the lake, and highlighted the need for a Citizens' Panel to have a clear mandate, some level of independent authority, and an expressed commitment of support by the Minister of Environment in order for it to be successful.

The Lake Wabamun community desires to have a lake where the ecology and environmental values are protected for future generations, and that all stakeholders will need to work collaboratively towards a common goal and shared responsibility. The means of achieving this collective vision will be the formalization of a Citizens' Panel and the development and implementation of a Watershed Management Plan. Communication and education throughout the greater Wabamun community, and among day-users, industry and local government partners, was also recognized as an important vehicle by which to influence behavioral changes, which benefit the lake environment.

The community values the lake for the recreational enjoyment that it offers. A clean and safe resource with healthy fish, waterfowl and wildlife are key indicators by which this recreational value can be measured. While many participants expressed a desire for a natural lake, free of human impact, they also valued the lake for the economic and recreational opportunities it provides for the community. A balance of values is ultimately needed, and the Citizen's Panel was seen as an important forum in determining the appropriate balance in this watershed. It was also recognized that collectively all stakeholders will need to continuously excel in the best management practices utilized within industry, domestic and municipal projects and not simply accept grandfathered practices and approvals when they conflict with the public interest.

Residents and stakeholders want a process that looks at the integrity and scope of the whole watershed and its ecosystem. While there was general support of the Schindler Report, and the AENV Water For Life Strategy, people wanted an opportunity for a "clean slate"; they did not want their vision indirectly limited by a specific report or an existing piece of policy. The community desires to have all tools at their disposal and have the flexibility to explore innovative solutions for sustainable watershed planning, and thereby act as a model for other watersheds in Alberta and beyond.

How this could be incorporated into a Draft Terms of Reference:

Draft Vision

Lake Wabamun is a place of opportunity, a home to healthy fish and wildlife, and a community that shares its collective responsibility to be the best stewards of their environment.

Draft Mission

To guide the development, management and stewardship of Lake Wabamun through collaborative watershed planning, research, and public education.

Draft Objectives for the 2006 and 2007 calendar years. Presented in chronological order.

1. Finalize name for the group, develop a draft Terms of Reference using this report as a guide, and ratify the governance, structure, and organizational bylaws for the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel.
2. Develop a decision making process for evaluating, prioritizing, and acting on current and emerging issues which affect public health and/or ecological integrity of the Lake Wabamun watershed.
3. Review, validate, and prioritize the recommendations of all past public consultations and scientific reports including Dr. David Schindler's report titled "*Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts*" and use such relevant information sources to develop a revolving three year Business Plan with measurable objectives for acting on these recommendations. Commence activities upon approval of Business Plan.
4. Develop the Terms of Reference for an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Lake Wabamun and secure signatory support from all partners directly involved with the implementation of the plan.
5. Provide a forum for communication, debate, and planning coordination among representatives of the Lake Wabamun community, and develop a Communications and Education Plan detailing how the Panel will communicate its objectives, progress, and achievements to its partners, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, and the public.

Draft Geographic Scope

The Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel will be provided the opportunity to examine any issue regardless of geographic scope that may affect the environment or human health within:

- The delineated bed and shores of Lake Wabamun
- The Lake Wabamun surface water catchment area
- The underlying ground water aquifers as they relate to the health of Wabamun Lake
- The outlet and surface water catchment area of Wabamun Creek as they relate to the health of Wabamun Lake.

Guiding Principles

Shared Values:

The guiding principles that were presented and based on the CASA (Clean Air Strategic Alliance) Consensus Model were generally agreed to, although some comments suggest there may still be some level of skepticism over the intent and purpose for a Citizens' Panel, and questions regarding the panel's "authority" were consistently heard throughout the process.

Alberta Environment strongly supports "Place-based Management" and community defined "Environmental Outcomes" in its Business Plan. A Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel would serve to facilitate the achievement of both these goals, however its success lies within the leadership and commitment by the local community. Comments heard at the workshop reflect that the community of Lake Wabamun is ready to invest in this process, and Alberta Environment along with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Capital Health, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada are prepared to provide a supporting role in the formative stages of this initiative.

Residents and stakeholders expressed the desire for a process that would ultimately self-govern, but recognized that AENV may have to provide an interim facilitating role until the Citizens' Panel is fully functional. Many participants recognized the significant time and resource commitments for this initiative, however, most concerns related to an uncertainty over whether this investment will translate into successful implementation of the Panel's shared values. Participants of the workshop found the facilitated sessions extremely valuable and productive (see Appendix 5: Workshop Evaluation), and recommended that resources for an independent facilitator be committed to the Panel.

The authority of the proposed Citizens' Panel was a common concern shared by many. While some participants felt that the Panel's authority needs to be prescribed by an existing authority (i.e. government ministry) in advance of its establishment, others recognized the strength of "shared responsibility" and a collaborative commitment by all partners to the process.

How this could be incorporated into a Draft Terms of Reference:

Draft Guiding Principles (based on CASA Consensus Model)

- *Purpose Driven* – The purpose, process, and expected outcomes will be clearly described such that those who might be affected by any decision have the ability to determine whether they have reason to participate.
- *Inclusiveness* – Participation on the Panel and contribution to decision-making will be inclusive of all interests affected by the respective decisions and/or actions of the Panel. Panel composition and membership will strive to reflect the diversity of stakeholders within the Lake Wabamun watershed.

- *Voluntary Participation* – Involvement is by individual choice. Active participation is expected and reinforces the value of this process in achieving both collective and individually desired outcomes.
- *Self Design* – The Panel will have full control over development of the process for satisfying consensus on any decision-making exercise.
- *Flexibility* – The Panel will have the flexibility to employ different methods for achieving consensus to best suit the needs of the circumstances at hand. Such processes will be clearly defined prior to a decision-making exercise. Panel members will demonstrate flexibility in trying to accommodate the schedules and needs of other members to ensure goals for inclusiveness are met.
- *Equal Opportunity* – All participants will be ensured equal access to information relevant for informed discussion and decision-making, and be given fair opportunity to participate throughout the process.
- *Mutual Respect* – Panel participants will exercise patience, tolerance, and respect toward others, and acknowledge that diverse viewpoints and open discussion serve to strengthen the decision-making process.
- *Accountability* – Panel participants are accountable to the communities they represent, to each other, and to the Citizens’ Panel which they have agreed to support. Participants will be responsible for ensuring their opinions and values reflect those of their constituents, and promote awareness of Panel activities within their communities. Representatives are also expected to communicate the appropriate amount of time required for them to fulfill this responsibility with the Citizens’ Panel and address any concerns they have regarding capacity. Approved meeting minutes and decisions of the Citizens’ Panel will be made publicly accessible, and any member of the Lake Wabamun community is free to observe Panel meetings provided sufficient notification to the chair.
- *Time Limits* – Clear and reasonable time limits for working toward a decision, reaching key milestones, and reporting on results will be established.
- *Commitment to Implementation and Monitoring* – Panel Members will demonstrate their commitment to the process, through:
 - ✓ a commitment to participate in meetings and discussion
 - ✓ a commitment to complete action items and fulfill panel member responsibilities
 - ✓ a commitment to implement the agreements and recommendations achieved by consensus within their respective communities and/or associations, and report back to the Citizens’ Panel on the progress of implementation. Where implementation is not possible due to resource constraints or unforeseen circumstance, the respective panel member will report such barriers to implementation back to the Citizens’ Panel and provide a recommendation of how such barriers can be mitigated during subsequent planning cycles.

Draft Decision Making Framework

The Citizens’ Panel, Science Panel, and all Project and Working Groups will operate by consensus. Consensus will be achieved when all parties to the Citizens’ Panel can “live

with” the outcomes of a decision. Consensus achieves the following desired goals for collaborative community-based decision-making:

- It facilitates greater dialogue and exchange of ideas in which potential solutions can be explored.
- It assures all participants within the decision making process an equal opportunity to contribute.
- It affirms areas of common value, and areas of disagreement among representatives of the community.
- It increases the efficiency and effectiveness of actions based on these decisions due to greater cooperation and less resistance by any single interest.
- It contributes to improved trust among members of the community.

Where consensus cannot be achieved, but the collective desire (>75%) of panel members is to move forward, those in disagreement with the course of action have the option of filing a “position statement”. The “Position Statement” will be attached to the minutes of the meeting and any public correspondence referring to the decision would note that a Position Statement had been filed by the respective parties.

Draft Panel Governance

- Chair (to be elected by the Panel)
- Panel (appointed by the respective stakeholder groups, or selected from nominations received by Alberta Environment)
- Science Advisor (ex-officio - to be appointed by the Panel)
- Independent-Facilitator & Coordinator & Recording secretary (ex-officio - initially provided by Alberta Environment with approval from Panel)
- Working Groups (Terms of Reference to be determined by the Panel and may include members of the Panel, technical expertise, and/or members of the Lake Wabamun community. Their function may be to explore specific issues in greater detail, coordinate stewardship and education initiatives, or provide additional opportunities for public participation in the activities of the Citizens’ Panel.)

Draft Panel Authority

The Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Panel will exercise authority for watershed management within the Lake Wabamun basin through the shared governance of its participating organizations. All decisions are reached by consensus, and all partners will contribute resources within their capacity toward achieving shared environmental outcomes.

As a committed partner to this planning process, and consistent with other watershed planning initiatives under the Water for Life Strategy, Alberta Environment will support the decisions of the Citizen’s Panel provided that such decisions can demonstrate:

- 1) inclusiveness and equitable representation to the satisfaction of the Wabamun Lake community.
- 2) consensus has been reached among the stakeholders
- 3) decisions and/or recommendations of the Citizens’ Panel are based on this consensus.

- 4) the context and/or issues addressed fall within the responsibility of AENV Business Plan, Policies, or regulatory authority.
- 5) no direct conflict with the broader public interest of Albertans.

The Citizens' Panel also recognizes the existing regulatory and jurisdictional authority of its individual, municipal, provincial and federal government members in addition to any Approvals or Agreements issued under such authority. Such authorities are not bound to the outcomes of the Citizens' Panel unless done so via expressed written support.

Panel Composition

Shared Values:

Residents and stakeholders generally supported a Panel composition of approximately 20 members that reflect a diversity of stakeholders around the lake. While this subject area consistently provided the greatest focus of debate, it was also recognized that success will depend on having the “right people” at the table. This implies engaging not only those who will have a direct role in the implementation of specific recommendations, but also those who share a passion for the lake. In addition, there were some concerns expressed over the disproportionate representation of the smaller summer villages as compared to other larger un-incorporated subdivisions along the north and south shores, and the need to reflect the diversity of recreational groups from the sailing clubs and camps.

Workshop participants generally supported the proposal to have representatives selected independently by the various communities and stakeholder groups around the lake, and that residents of the watershed should play a leadership role in the panel composition and governance. The role of Alberta Environment as facilitator was recognized as important at this time, but should be considered only as an interim solution until the Panel itself can assume these responsibilities. Participants desired to have greater flexibility within the Panel membership so that different people/groups may be brought into the consultation process depending upon the issues addressed. Holding open meetings, and providing the Citizens’ Panel with the flexibility to strike “working groups” to offer guidance on specific issues or coordinate stewardship programming would give more people an opportunity to participate in the activities of the Citizens’ Panel. Overall, it was felt that the Panel should be more inclusive rather than exclusive, and at the expense of perhaps being a little on the large side, to include more community interests during the initial formation. However, it was also acknowledged that Panel members need to be accountable to the communities/interest groups they represent. “Individual representation” was not desired on the Panel, but creating opportunities for interested individuals to participate within working groups was strongly encouraged as a means to solicit greater public interest and support for the Citizens’ Panel.

How this could be incorporated into a Draft Terms of Reference:

Draft Panel Composition

The Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Panel will be comprised of approximately 24 seats with representatives from the following:

<u>Sector Affiliation</u>	<u>Number of Seats</u>
Alberta Government.....	1 + other Ministry advisors
Federal Government	1 + other Ministry advisors
Local Government	7
Parkland County	
Village of Wabamun	
S.V. Seba Beach	
S.V. Betula Beach	

S.V. Point Alison	
S.V. Kapasiwin	
S.V. Lakeview	
Watershed Resident (North Shore)	2
Watershed Resident (South Shore)	2
Watershed Resident (Business or Agriculture).....	1
Paul First Nations (Elder and Council).....	2
TransAlta	1
NGO Environmental	3
NGO Recreational	3
Science Advisor (ex-officio)	1

Draft Panel Selection

Panel members represent the diversity of perspectives, jurisdictional authorities and organizations active within the Lake Wabamun watershed. Each sector will be responsible for establishing a process for recruiting, appointing, and communication with their respective representatives on the panel. Each sector will forward their nomination(s) to Alberta Environment who will provide an interim role in facilitating the selection of candidates (see detail below). In subsequent years the Citizens’ Panel will have an opportunity to formalize its own recruitment and selection process. Groups are free to send alternates, but such alternates must be identified within the nomination. Initial terms will be staggered for two or three years and designated at the first Citizens’ Panel meeting. Subsequent terms will be for two years with no member serving more than two consecutive terms.

Nominations for membership on the Wabamun Citizens’ Panel will be accepted from May 8 to June 19, 2006, after which seats with no nominations will be declared vacant. At the discretion of the Citizens’ Panel members, vacant seats may be made available to other eligible nominees, or be reallocated to the Watershed Resident sector for the remainder of that term. Nomination forms will be circulated by e-mail, and posted on the AENV website at www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/reports/wabamunsum.html. Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers.

Successful nominees will be notified by June 23, and the first Citizen’s Panel meeting will be tentatively scheduled for late July/August (pending schedule coordination among members). All nominations received will be filed on a referral list for potential recruitment to individual Working Groups.

Alberta Government

Eligibility: Any employee of the provincial government representing a Ministry interest in the environmental and/or public health of the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Nomination: Ministry will forward nomination form, letter of interest, and a letter of support from the immediate supervisor of the employee to Alberta Environment.

Selection Process: The single vote available for Alberta Government will be determined by participating provincial Ministries. Other nominated Ministry representatives would be ex-officio.

Federal Government

Eligibility: Any employee of the federal government representing a Ministry interest in the environmental and/or public health of the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Nomination: Ministry will forward nomination form, letter of interest, and a letter of support from the immediate supervisor of the employee to Alberta Environment.

Selection Process: The single vote available for Federal Government will be determined by participating federal Ministries. Other nominated Ministry representatives would be ex-officio.

Local Government

Eligibility: To be determined by the respective municipal government council.

Nomination: Each municipal council will forward their nomination form, and letter of interest to Alberta Environment.

Selection Process: One seat per incorporated municipality will be available.

Watershed Resident

Eligibility: Any permanent or part-time resident within the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Special interests within this sector include but are not limited to: cottage owners, agricultural producers, business owners, camp/marina operators, and day-users, with an expressed interest in protecting the health of Lake Wabamun. “North Shore Watershed Residents” would provide a perspective from unincorporated subdivisions, and rural residential property owners on the north shore between Seba Beach and Kapasiwin. “South Shore Watershed Residents” would provide a perspective from unincorporated subdivisions, and rural residential property owners on the south shore between Seba Beach and Kapasiwin. “Business or Agriculture Watershed Residents” would provide a business or agricultural perspective. Residents within incorporated Summer Villages, and the Village of Wabamun are encouraged to copy their nomination to their respective municipal councils for selection at the local municipal level, and if successful would serve as a representative on behalf of the local government sector.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination form, letter of interest, and two letters of support from the community they have declared to represent to Alberta Environment. For example, residents from un-incorporated subdivisions would accompany their nomination with two letters from other residents within that subdivision to be declared a representative of ‘ABC Beach’ on the Citizens’ Panel.

Selection Process: A minimum of five seats will be available for Watershed Residents. Up to a maximum of 12 seats are available should other municipal government seats be declared vacant. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of seats available, Alberta Environment will assist the respective nominees in finding a mutually agreeable decision on Panel representation using the following criteria:

- Individual nominations from the same subdivision or sector interest will be encouraged to designate a single representative or opt to participate as alternates.

- Representatives will be selected to incorporate as broad a perspective as possible of the diversity of interests around the lake.
- Representatives will be selected to reflect the geographical distribution of interests around the lake.
- Representatives will be selected based on the level of demonstrated community support (expressed as letters of support) and relevant experience.

Paul First Nations

Eligibility: To be determined by the Paul Band Chief and Council.

Nomination: The Paul Band will forward their nomination form and letter of interest to Alberta Environment.

Selection Process: A maximum of 2 seats for the Paul Band will be available.

TransAlta

Eligibility: To be determined by TransAlta.

Nomination: TransAlta will forward their nomination form and letter of interest to Alberta Environment.

Selection Process: One seat for TransAlta will be available.

NGO Environmental

Eligibility: Any member or employee of an organization with a mandate for the protection of the environment.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination form, letter of interest, and two letters of support from within their sector to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the Executive of the nominee's organization, and one letter will be from the executive of another organization within the same sector. Only 1 nomination per group/association will be accepted.

Selection Process: A maximum of 3 seats for NGO Environmental representatives will be held. Should the number of nominees exceed the number of available seats, Alberta Environment will facilitate a mutually agreed upon selection process among all eligible nominees received.

NGO Recreational

Eligibility: Any member or employee of an organization with a mandate for coordinating or promoting recreational activities on Lake Wabamun.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination form, letter of interest, and two letters of support from within their sector to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the Executive of the nominee's organization, and one letter will be from the executive of another organization within the same sector. Only 1 nomination per group/association will be accepted.

Selection Process: A maximum of 3 seats for NGO Recreational representatives will be held. Should the number of nominees exceed the number of available seats, Alberta Environment will facilitate a mutually agreed upon selection process among all eligible nominees received.

Science Advisor

This ex-officio designated position will initially be appointed by Alberta Environment for the first 2 year term. Subsequent appointments will be made by the Citizens' Panel. The Science Advisor would facilitate additional independent research/review of the environmental issues recognized by the Citizen's Panel and act as liaison to, and chair of, a parallel science advisory group.

Next Steps

What has happened to date?

- December 2004 – Dr. David Schindler submitted report titled “Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts”.
- November 16, 2005 – Next Steps Meeting, Stony Plain
- December 2005 to January 2006 – AENV staff met individually with various groups around the lake to discuss ideas for the structure and function of the proposed Citizens’ Panel.
- February 17, 2006 – AENV circulates invitation to March 11 workshop
- February 28, 2006 – AENV circulates worksheets for March 11 workshop
- March 11, 2006 – AENV hosts Visioning Workshop in Wabamun.
- March 26, 2006 – Deadline for submission of workshop evaluations and worksheets
- May 8, 2006 – Summary report of workshop proceedings circulated and posted on AENV website.
- May 8 to June 19 – Call for Nominations

Planning Process and Important Dates

Based on the feedback received and the general good will and support demonstrated by participants at the March 11th workshop, AENV is assuming that the community of Lake Wabamun sees value in the proposed Citizens’ Panel and wishes to see its formation advanced as soon as possible. Additional details will undoubtedly need to be worked out, and there may even be a few wrinkles along the way (even the name may be up for debate), but residents and stakeholders already share a common vision that by working together we can change the way this watershed is managed, used, and ultimately valued by all Albertans.

This report will be widely circulated among the residents and stakeholders within the Lake Wabamun community. In the weeks following its release Alberta Environment will continue to collect any feedback received from the community on this report, and table all comments received at the first Citizens’ Panel meeting. Members of the public can submit comments of support or concern to Alberta Environment at Glenn.Gustafson@gov.ab.ca, by fax at (780) 960-8605, or by mail to: Alberta Environment, Suite #1, 250 Diamond Ave, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X 4C7

A call for nominations and a nomination form will be released in early May, and both residents and stakeholder groups will have until **June 19, 2006** to forward a nomination (including any designated alternates) to Alberta Environment. Successful nominees will be notified by **June 23, 2006**, and the first Citizen’s Panel meeting will be scheduled to coordinate attendance by all nominees in **late July/early August**. All nominations received will be filed on a referral list for potential recruitment to individual Working Groups.

For more information on the Wabamun Citizens’ Panel visit:
www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/reports/wabamunsum.html

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**Wabamun Citizens' Panel Visioning Workshop
March 11, 2006
Jubilee Hall, Village of Wababun**

AGENDA

1:00 p.m. – Introductions and Review of Day (including overview of background to Panel)

1:30 p.m. – Small Group Discussions (First Rotation)

- “What is the Citizens’ Panel?”
- “How will the Citizens’ Panel Operate?”
- “Who will participate on the Citizens’ Panel?”

2:30 p.m. – Small Group Discussion (Second Rotation)

3:15 – Coffee Break

3:30 – Small Group Discussions (Third Rotation)

4:15 – Summary of Day and “Parking Lot” Visit

4:45 – Next Steps and Wrap-up

5:00 – Adjournment

Please note:

Worksheets and evaluations for the day can be left at the registration table or mailed/faxed in later.

Facilitator Summary of the Lake Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop

March 11, 2006

VISION

- Having a goal is critical
- The group articulated that the clear mandate and goal of the Citizen's Panel must be to develop and manage a watershed plan.
- The Citizen's Panel must be an advisory group to the minister of Environment.
- The vision for Lake Wabamun is that:
 - The lake will be natural and free from industrial influences
 - The lake will have good fishing, swimming, and recreational activities
 - The lake will be at its best for future generations
 - The lake will be healthy and have appropriate water levels

MISSION

The mission of the Citizen's Panel is:

- Stewardship
- Communications

OBJECTIVES

There was general agreement with the objectives presented, with the following key thoughts:

- The Schindler Report is only one source of wisdom, and the citizen's panel should have access to, and be able to use the entire body of research that exists on Lake Wabamun. This summary of research should be done early in the process.
- There is considerable goodwill around the lake currently, along with momentum to get the planning done. This should be leveraged.

GEOGRAPHY

The Citizen's Panel's geographic scope should be the entire Lake Wabamun watershed basin.

Facilitator Summary of the Lake Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop ...continued

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles that were presented were generally agreed to, with the following observations:

- The panel should have a neutral facilitator to work with, to assist in ensuring that the process is successful.
- The group will ultimately self-govern.
- It will be critical that the agendas for each session are focused.
- The right people should be at the table to deal with specific issues.

PANEL MAKE-UP

There was general agreement that 20 panel members was a reasonable number, but the visioning group made the following points:

- The number should not restrict having the right people at the table.
- Passion for the lake should be the key ingredient required for inclusion on the panel
- Absolute clarity about the focus of the panel will assist in determining the membership.
- The panel should not be an exclusive body.
- An aboriginal presence – particularly of an elder – will be a key component to the success of the panel.
- A hydrologist will be an invaluable asset to the panel.
- Panel members should have time to commit to the initiative.
- Alberta Environment may not be the most impartial body to select the panel members; over time, the panel should self-select.
- The panel will need to have access to a range of science advisors.
- The nomination process should be communicated broadly to a range of stakeholders.
- The panel will need to be adequately resourced in order to be able to do its work effectively.

Notes from Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop
March 11, 2006

What is the Citizens' Panel?

The following is a summary of comments recorded at the March 11th Visioning Workshop. Workshop participants were divided into three groups to discuss the function, governance and structure of the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel. Individual comments are shown in *blue scripted font*.

Group #1

Question 1: What is the Vision of the Citizens' Panel?

- *The Vision is a frame of reference. What are we trying to get back to?*
- *Natural as possible.*
- *The lake is nice as is.*
- *Sewers are the only current inlet - Restoration of natural inlets.*
- *Natural fluctuation of water levels.*
- *No common bond among communities – should be improved.*
- *Need for regulatory controls and a planned approach*
- *Keep lake viable – people live and work here.*
- *Stronger collaboration among local jurisdictions/municipalities*
- *Good fishing and swimming*
- *Sailing opportunities*
- *Diversity of bird life – need for protection of grebe colony*
- *Grandchildren should be able to enjoy same opportunity*
- *Increase water levels to protect health of lake*

Focus Area: Lake Health

- *Protecting current health*
- *Water quality is good – protect it.*
- *No inappropriate emissions into lake*
- *Good fishing*
- *Aquatic life is the best filter (of pollutants) we have*
- *Healthy bird life and bird watching is a potential economic opportunity*

Focus Area: Community

- *Everybody under one hat – common vision – same agenda*
- *Consistent philosophy for managing issues (ie beach care)*
- *Residents share “ownership” and stewardship of lake*

Focus Area: Opportunity

- *Protect for future generations*
- *Recreation – swimming/sailing*

- *Lake is free and ready to use (post spill message)*
- *Celebrate resource we currently have to improve public interest.*

Focus Area: Implementation

- *Greater enforcement of existing regulations needed*
- *Increased awareness to non-resident visitors to influence change in lake use behaviour.*

Question 2: What is the Mission of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Public awareness*
- *Engaging partners*
- *Stewardship – collectively we all pitch in under a common vision*
- *Accountability to lake as a whole rather than individual interests*
- *Need for regulation*
- *Make recommendations that are enforceable*
- *Involve/talk to the right people*
- *A watershed plan needs authority and enforcement*

Question 3: What are the Objectives of the Citizens' Panel?

Objective 1

- *Supported*

Objective 2

- *Need to unify values around the lake*
- *What affects one community affects us all*

Objective 3

- *Need for more info about report*
- *Support using report as a logical starting point*
- *Not just spill issues*
- *Perhaps have less reliance on just Schindler report and broaden scope to include all relevant information*

Objective 4

- *All 1200 stakeholders should know the business of the Citizens' Panel*
- *More power – more people – the better*

Additional Objectives

- *Develop a volunteer corps/bank*

Question 4: What is the Geographic Scope of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Add 5th point – “but not necessarily limited to the above.*
- *General support of proposed scope*

Group #2

Question 1: What is the Vision of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Improvement in water, air quality, and fish habitat*
- *Cleaner water*
- *Water levels should be allowed to rise/fall – maintain recreational values*
- *Watershed Plan in place and in action – a 5 year renewable process*
- *Water in and water out – dynamic system.*
- *Need for plan to protect environmental aspects*
- *Lake levels should be managed only to mitigate industry impacts – nature should still be allowed to take its course*
- *Wildlife should be protected – fish stock, birds, wildlife*
- *Lake is free of industrial pollutants – strive for zero emissions, no dumping of human waste*
- *Minimal human influence on the lake*
- *Lake open to recreational use*
- *Economic aspects of power generation need to be recognized (“we love the lights”), however industry needs to utilize the best possible technology of the day. Grandfather clauses should not be allowed.*
- *Developing a focus for the group may take some time, but is fundamental*
- *Process needs ‘teeth’ – need AENV Minister’s support of process and commitment to implement/enforce Citizens’ Panel recommendations*
- *Need 1 committee to implement plan consistent with recommendations from all previous committees.*
- *There has been too much “buck passing” in enforcing existing regulations.*

Question 2: What is the Mission of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Number one mission is to develop a watershed management plan*
- *Need some body (authority) to implement plan*
- *Need accountability to past processes*
- *Industry and Paul Band need to be involved. All stakeholders need to be represented*
- *Recognize huge time commitment by all*

Question 3: What are the Objectives of the Citizens' Panel?

Objective 1

- *Need commitment from government to support process – not just a balloon of hot air*
- *Should change name of panel to “Wabamun Lake Citizens’ Watershed Planning Panel”*

Objective 2

- *Stated too general – outcome should be a watershed plan*
- *Need to define the “frame of a watershed plan”*

Objective 3

- *Many past consultations and recommendations have been made.*
- *Need to collate past recommendations (EUB, etc) via consultant contract*
- *Implement a 5 year planning process*

- *AENV Minister needs to allocate the \$ and manpower to implement plan*
- *Need for new information – hydrologist reports.*
- *Success will depend on having regulators at the table*
- *Need consensus to implement – particularly this community*

Objective 4

- *Should enhance/support the coordination of existing communication networks*
- *Need new vehicles for sharing information and reaching out to all stakeholders*
- *Community needs to be heard and “talked with”....not “talked to”*

Question 4: What is the Geographic Scope of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Group did not address this question.*

Group #3

Question 1: What is the Vision of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Oil spill has been a great unifier – session like this would not have been possible a year ago*
- *Process needs to sustain the “good will” around the lake*
- *Need to assess the impact of the spill on fish populations.*
- *Need for health fish and wildlife populations for –utilitarian, recreational and aesthetic reasons*
- *Need a proactive group, rather than a reactive one.*
- *Review issues of past, present and future*
- *The panel should be able to influence decisions on the lake*
- *Need process to identify issues, review technologies, influence electoral and regulatory authorities who are the stewards of the lake.*
- *Need to protect healthy lake ecosystems while sustaining recreational and commercial fishing values*
- *Need for a “safe resource” – eating fish, swimming, boating*
- *We got where we are because we took our eye off the ball – the vision is the ball*
- *Recognize importance of specific areas (ie Bluequill Bay for pike spawning habitat)*
- *We (the Citizens' Panel) will be the “blue print”/model for what we can do here....and within other lake communities.*
- *Wabamun is not a lost cause*
- *Need plan that will be used and followed.*

Question 2: What is the Mission of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Influence – via communications*
- *Promote message that this is a “good lake”, but it can be a great lake.*
- *Need to role up sleeves and do something – the panel needs to be actively involved in projects in the community*
- *Decisions/recommendations based on science and research – but also acknowledge the long history and local knowledge around the lake.*

- *Actively engage the public and promote community projects on the lake*
- *Create opportunities for people to develop an emotional attachment to the lake*
- *Past has focused a lot on the negatives – need to look at positives, which in turn will provide new opportunities (i.e. ecotourism)*
- *Citizen Panel members need to demonstrate a commitment to the lake as a whole rather than individual agendas*
- *The vision needs to be just beyond our grasp to ensure longevity of purpose for the group.*

Question 3: What are the Objectives of the Citizens' Panel?

Objective 1

- *Supported - however we cannot spend too much time on this.*

Objective 2

- *Supported – a good facilitator would be invaluable, can make or break it.*

Objective 3

- *Other information needs to be considered. Schindler report is a good place to start*
- *Do not overemphasize one report*
- *Other commitments in the past need to be considered*
- *5 year plan may be too short...3 year...continuous business plan may be more appropriate*

Objective 4

- *Need to learn from other watershed planning examples, not just the North Saskatchewan Watershed Planning and Advisory Council*
- *Panel should remain objective and provide “a” forum, rather than “the” forum for influencing government.*

Question 4: What is the Geographic Scope of the Citizens' Panel?

- *Group did not address this question.*

Notes from Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop
March 11, 2006

How will the Citizen's Panel Operate?

The following is a summary of comments recorded at the March 11th Visioning Workshop. Workshop participants were divided into three groups to discuss the function, governance and structure of the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel. Individual comments are shown in *blue scripted font*.

Group #1

- *Lots of groups are active in the area, have achieved a lot over the years*
- *A contractor should be hired to go through all the reports and assemble all regulatory commitments related to Wabamun*
- *The Panel has the potential to eliminate voices*
- *Need to focus on Watershed Management Plan*
- *GOA should create a clear statement of what it is going to do re: Schindler Report and all other reports related to Wabamun, and have it signed by the Minister*
- *Will the Panel be just a rubber stamp or will it have any real authority?*
- *Will be a large time commitment*
- *(DFO) Don't know what role DFO will play until the focus of the group is clear*
- *(DFO) supports consensus model*
- *Should change name of group to "Citizen's Watershed Planning Panel" to be clear that focus is watershed management plan*

Group #2

- *Should use CASA model, but not enough industry present*
- *How do we determine who will be affected by the Panel? Hard to know in advance. How do we incorporate interests as they arise?*
- *Diversity comes from giving voice to all groups*
- *Should seek info from CASA on how each sector representative can gather input from groups they speak for, but who they do not report to*
- *Is 20 members too small?*
- *Panel should set up website and post minutes to aid in input-gathering from various sectors*
- *If members miss meetings, they should be deemed not active and replaced*
- *The Facilitator's job is to recognize blocks to consensus and manage appropriately (stepwise)*
- *Be aware of impression on members of gov't hiring a facilitator*
- *Facilitator – neutral, 3rd party ideal, but skill should be deciding factor*
- *Community Development rep facilitated coal bed methane group*
- *Facilitator is not a panel member*

- *Panel should be flexible regarding meeting location – what makes most sense (in Wabamun during summer, closer to Edmonton in winter?)*
- *Panel will self-govern the time/attention hogs*
- *Equal opportunity – reports provided in advance (a time frame fair to volunteers and industrial reps), budget to allow coverage for travel (mileage, meals, out of pocket expenses)*
- *Respect – Rules are posted and promoted, with constant reinforcement (on website and at meetings)*
- *Accountability – people can attend meetings without participating (sit in back), public must be notified of upcoming meetings so that they can drop in*
- *Time Limits – time provided is adequate*
- *Commitments – Gov't reps may have other (conflicting or incongruous) demands/pressures affecting what can be decided or advanced*

Group #3

- *Meetings must be productive*
- *Accountability – expectation of panel members representing their constituents fully must be explained upfront*
- *Lots of lead time before decisions are made is therefore required*
- *Website would help to enforce accountability, post minutes*
- *Time Limits – good facilitator needed*
- *Group Function – need secretary*
- *Need to create permanent status for the group (e.g. through AENV involvement) so that the group does not bog down like other groups on the lake*
- *Working Groups – task of working groups has to be very specific with clear timelines, and who the members are is very important*
- *Make sure that local municipalities are well in the loop re: what our expectations are regarding appointing a representative and their role*

Notes from Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop
March 11, 2006

Who will participate on the Citizens' Panel?

The following is a summary of comments recorded at the March 11th Visioning Workshop. Workshop participants were divided into three groups to discuss the function, governance and structure of the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel. Individual comments are shown in *blue scripted font*.

Group #1

Question 1: Is the overall number of representatives on the panel reasonable?

- *Approximately 20 seen as reasonable number considering not all will attend each meeting.*
- *Groups of 20 have worked well before – if anything it is slightly high.*

Question 2: Are all the sectors that should be on the panel represented?

- *More representation of industry might be needed (e.g. coal, oil, gravel, CN)*
- *Should think long-term – make this group a model*
- *Stony Plain Fish & Game is crucial – need to ensure representation within the 4 seats possible.*
- *Are approximately 6 Government of Alberta Departments, but only 2 seats – how will this work? Could perhaps be involved as “specialists” as needed versus being ongoing representatives.*
- *Agriculture (e.g. ranchers) are not obviously represented, e.g. could relate to E. coli contamination.*
- *Half of properties are local government, half are the County (1500 properties with around 350 seasonal county representatives). Seasonal residents are a key consideration.*
- *Resident's groups - who on group represents who? Is volunteer based, so trying to stay involved is challenging versus government reps who are paid to attend.*
- *Summer Village reps should be either residents or councilors (versus administrators). Perhaps change category to read “Summer Village Resident”.*
- *Two-way communication is needed: getting information to the panel, also from the panel.*
- *Perhaps use grouped beach names versus Summer Village in list of panel names to include incorporated and non-incorporated. Would deal with lack of representation from North shore.*
- *MCA could also be ex-officio on the panel.*
- *Perhaps membership needs to be based on the topic of concern (i.e. a much more fluid and flexible group) where if an issue arises could adjust composition of group in order to address in timely manner.*
- *There also needs to be some way to review the progress of the Panel from the outside, i.e. even if you're not on the Panel.*

Question 3: Are the right numbers of representatives listed for each sector?

- *Could combine the Summer Village seats somewhat to make room for industry*
- *May want two seats for Paul Band depending on their level of interest and capacity to support the Panel.*
- *For boating community, one representative can't cover all groups as quite diverse, e.g. power vs. sail, large vs. small.*
- *Capital Health likely not a "full-time" member – perhaps coming in as technical support s required.*
- *Likely want broader industry focus rather than only TransAlta.*
- *The science sub-panel could likely evolve based on issues that arise, e.g. Health needed now due to spill.*
- *To provide balance, the industry rep should be a citizen, i.e. from general watershed area, not form head office in Calgary.*
- *Consider the percentage composition as well, e.g. residents versus lake users/part-time residents.*
- *Relative to boat owners, some vessels are very large and equivalent to cottages. They also have a "lake list" that allows efficient communication between them.*
- *Should also try to incorporate U of A in panel as have a large impact/interest.*
- *If AENV rep is ex-officio it would make room for one more member.*

Question 4: Do you agree with how the panel will be selected?

- *The elected officials around the lake already have a group that meets (CAOs) that could decide the best balance/makeup for Summer Village numbers.*
- *County representation could also come via the CAO Group.*
- *NGO reps should also be citizens/individuals with vested interest if possible*

Group #2

Question 1: Is the overall number of representatives on the panel reasonable?

- *If get more than 20 is hard to make decisions.*
- *Might need to move to a panel of more than 20 to fit in all interests*
- *Panel needs to have some flexibility*
- *Must be compact enough to move ahead on decisions*

Question 2: Are all the sectors that should be on the panel represented?

- *CN should be involved, even if not as a regular panel member – they should be part of a watershed plan.*
- *Under recreation – the camps would like to have representation.*

Question 3: Are the right numbers of representatives listed for each sector?

- *Parkland and Wabamun need more than one rep.*
- *Should be an elected official representing municipality of a resident who is appointed.*
- *NGO Environmental may need more reps*

Question 4: Do you agree with how the panel will be selected?

- *A committee may be needed to determine who is on panel – this should not be done as a draw.*
- *Could get groups in one sector to gather and vote for reps. Should also use groups in a sector in rotation in all cannot be represented in any give year.*
- *Have panel select panel members in the long-run*
- *Membership details to be developed, e.g. length of term, etc. Two-year terms would be best – should be staggered for continuity and should link to timing of council terms.*
- *Should have way to replace panel members if there are problems with individual members continuing/having to withdraw.*
- *What about alternates? Will this be allowed?*
- *Don't flog the overall process – get on with the panel formation.*
- *Should be remuneration for expenses of Panel members.*

Group #3

Question 1: Is the overall number of representatives on the panel reasonable?

- *Overall numbers not seen as that significant – whatever will meet the needs of the Panel.*
- *Number seems reasonable.*
- *Must know that Panel has some “teeth”*
- *Need to know function of group, e.g. is it to create a watershed management plan?*
- *Twenty is a fair number, but need the expertise too, though perhaps the “experts” aren't part of the panel.*
- *To limit numbers of panel members could cause problems with sectors being left out – with a good facilitator could have more panel members*

Question 2: Are all the sectors that should be on the panel represented?

- *Should add CN as they could have a big impact on lake in future.*
- *TransAlta should be on Panel as part of the consensus*
- *Parkland has only marginal representation of watershed (i.e. they cover a much larger area), need other community representatives, e.g. Fallis.*
- *Could have resource people come in as needed on the agenda for meetings – some key people may be needed on an ongoing basis. For example a hydrologist might be needed.*
- *Make sure scope of Panel if the whole watershed.*

Question 3: Are the right numbers of representatives listed for each sector?

- *Needs more citizens – should consider Summer Village numbers as “citizens/residents”*
- *Could be less “government” reps.*
- *Could also have working committees that allow more citizen involvement with the appropriate government reps coming in as needed to share their knowledge.*
- *From Paul Band might want a spokesperson and an elder*
- *Are many varied groups in the “recreation” area.*

Question 4: Do you agree with how the panel will be selected?

- *Want to make sure “passionate” people are selected for this, i.e. those who care about the lake.*
- *Panel members must be willing to devote time to the process – GOA must also be willing to devote time and resources. All must see value in the Panel.*
- *There is little merit to using a draw to select members.*
- *GOA may not be the best group to select panel members – whoever does it must be objective.*
- *Once started, the Panel could repopulate itself through a nomination and selection process.*
- *Alberta Environment is willing to arrange for the science support.*
- *Resident’s Committee has excellent list that could be used for communications with lake residents.*
- *Would be good to have “open” meetings to allow observation by interested residents.*
- *Where is funding available from – Stewardship Group funding might be one option.*
- *Should consider a more descriptive name for the panel like “Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Watershed Panel”.*
- *See GOA as support to the panel – perhaps as one panel member*
- *Must recognize the frustration of people around the lake due to past situations.*

Appendix 4: Comments from Worksheet Submissions

The following is a summary of comments included on worksheets received by Alberta Environment prior to March 26, 2006. The worksheet is presented as circulated. Individual comments are shown in *blue scripted font*.

Wabamun Citizens' Panel Workshop, March 11, 2006 SUMMARY

- December 2004 – Dr. David Schindler submitted report titled “Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts”.
- November 16, 2005 – Next Steps Meeting, Stony Plain.
- December 2005 to January 2006 – AENV staff met individually with various groups around the lake to discuss ideas for the structure and function of the proposed Citizens' Panel.

Purpose of March 11 Workshop

To provide an opportunity for local residents, government, and non-profit groups within the Wabamun watershed to contribute toward the development of a guiding document for the proposed Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel.

Independent facilitation, breakout sessions, and questionnaires will provide interested members of the Wabamun community equal opportunity for input on three key areas of discussion:

1. What is the Citizens' Panel?
2. How will it operate?
3. Who will participate?

Three worksheets have been prepared to facilitate discussion and structure feedback. All content, principles, and terms are presented for discussion purposes only. A statement of support, and opportunity for comment will follow each major section within the worksheets. Participants are encouraged to review this information prior to the workshop, but will have until **March 26th, 2006** to submit their feedback to Alberta Environment at Glenn.Gustafson@gov.ab.ca or by mail to:

Alberta Environment, Suite #1, 250 Diamond Ave, Spruce Grove, AB. T7X 4C7

A summary report of the meeting will be distributed to all registered participants and available for download at www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/reports/wabamunsum.html by **April 13, 2006**.

Invitations have been extended to representatives of all governments and groups within the basin, as well as all individuals who have directly expressed their interest in the Citizens' Panel to Alberta Environment. Broad circulation of the invitation has been encouraged. Any member of the Wabamun community is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to by **March 8th** to Glenn.Gustafson@gov.ab.ca stating the group, sector or community you are from.

Wabamun Citizens' "Advisory" Panel Workshop, March 11, 2006

Worksheet #1: What is the Citizens' "Advisory" Panel

Statement of Purpose

The Executive Summary of the Schindler Review clearly states that implementation of recommendations should include "input from citizen or scientific advisory groups". As such the proposed Citizen's Panel should be identified as an "Advisory" Panel!

The purpose of the Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel has proposed by Dr. David Schindler in his report titled "*Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts*" is...

"to protect the health of Wabamun Lake".

A vision and mission for the Citizens' Panel will describe what the "health" of the lake will specifically look like at some future point in time, and the mission of the Citizens' Panel will describe the tools and processes for how this vision will be achieved. Both the vision and the mission of the Citizens' Panel should be consistent with the values of the Government of Alberta Water for Life Strategy <http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca>. *(There may be other strategies, frameworks and or plans that decisions need to be consistent with!)* Initial drafting of the vision and mission will be coordinated at the March 11 workshop.

Vision

Describe what you define as a healthy lake (environmental, social, economic values):

- *no industrial development on the lake, controlled by government; lake is part of a watershed plan & thus lake area is monitored; lakeside & surrounding area inhabitants become familiar, care about & thus support the Government of Alberta Water for Life Strategy*
- *A healthy lake would be as I remember it in 1935-45. Mother nature was in charge. Beaches were clean and basically need free. Water was clean and safe. Forestation was abundant and natural. The lake abounded in fish and bird life was everywhere. Enjoyment was key – not industry and economics.*
- *A water quality that will support a healthy ecosystem supporting all aquatic life, plants, fish, birds and animals enabling them to flourish. Also all sustainable recreation qualities are maintainable. A lake that is pristine, healthy for communities in the area. Thus enabling growth and viability.*
- *Natural flow, lake that encourages recreation of various areas. Should be free of controversy.*
- *A healthy lake is one that has abundance of animals and vegetation. Water and air quality that promotes this growth. A healthy lake is one that provides both summer and winter enjoyment for humans and mother nature.*
- *Water coming in and going out naturally. A show place of a recovered watershed.*
- *A lake which can be enjoyed for recreation, e.g. water quality, adequate vegetation for fish & wildlife, along with guidelines to control effluents into the water, e.g. holding tanks versus septic systems, etc.*

- *A lake free of pollutants, with good water quality and able to sustain fish and wildlife, as well as provide enjoyment for people and families, residents and lake community. A vibrant economy in conjunction with existing business and industry.*
- *Intact and ecologically functioning littoral areas (includes beds of emergent aquatic vegetation) that support the habitat needs for fish and wildlife, and other components of the aquatic environment. Shorelands as public lands, that are stable, free from encroachments and freely accessible to and passable by the public. Functional riparian areas adjoining the lakeshore that maintain structural integrity of the lake's embankments. Water quality standard should meet minimum CCME Recreational water quality standards and lake's trophic status should not shift to higher trophic state. Wabamun Lake as a local and regionally important recreational lake will continue to provide Albertans with a high quality lake environment that supports natural landscape values; healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and supporting habitats; publicly accessible shorelands; and support a variety of recreational uses, today and into the future.*
- *A lake that is restored to its original state after industry has been allowed to use it for their own purposes for 50 years. That means a lake that fluctuates naturally within its 1 meter range at a mean elevation, in Lake Wabamun's case, of 724.96M above sea level. To have a healthy lake I believe that industry should not be allowed in the future to use the lake as a "heat sync." In fact if the lake were left to it's own devices, it can and will repair itself over time if we allow it to. Setting the mean elevation of this lake back to where it was before industry was allowed on the lake will accomplish this.*
- *In 10 years I'd like to see a lake that is environmentally healthy, i.e., healthy populations of fish, waterfowl and the associated ecosystems that support these populations, including those on shore. These lake and supporting ecosystems would themselves be supported by the human communities that use the lake for living, recreating and cultural activities. I envision a Wabamun Lake that would be a model for others about how lakes can be conserved for the benefit of all.*
- *Safe, clean, clear water, shores and lake bottom:*
 - *Safe for humans to utilize for recreational and domestic use and a source for residents and communities to process as potable water.*
 - *With an abundant and healthy fishery, bird habitat, and healthy environment for all natural species.*
 - *Where bays are not choked with aquatic weeds growth encouraged by industrial, agricultural, transportation, and domestic nutrients.*
 - *Free of untreated industrial, commercial and agricultural effluent laden with chemicals, metals, sediments and elevated temperature or leakage of lading from rail cars and commercial transportation in the drainage basin/watershed.*
 - *Where natural in/outflow channels and aquifers are maintained and enhanced to maximize drainage inflow to the lake and historic connection to the North Saskatchewan River.*
 - *Where natural habitat is protected in the drainage basin and a healthy balance is mandated for industrial, agricultural, transportation, and residential development.*
 - *Where only ultra environmentally responsible industrial, commercial and agricultural activity is allowed in the drainage basin.*
 - *Where lake or drainage water, utilized or diverted from the lake or basin for industrial and agricultural, is replaced.*

- *Where investments in homes and properties in the vicinity of the lake are valued for their proximity to a “Alberta Gem” without the negative stigma of the lake being negatively labeled an industrial or polluted lake.*
- *Where residents of Central Alberta desire to come and enjoy the offerings of the lake and its surrounding areas.*
- *Where the media directs positive attention and to the lake and surrounding area.*

Insert Draft Vision developed at Workshop:

- *In agreement with summary Vision of workshop*

Statement of Support - Vision:

I agree: 8 *Neutral/No Comment: 1* *I disagree*

Comments:

- *Wabamun has had long history going back 50 years. Would the lake be different today if Calgary Power had not built a power plant? We can look at Lake Isle and it also has its problems. Same St. Anne. Water levels.*
- *Communities around the lake working together to implement responsible use of the lake and surrounding watershed.*
- *Good comments came forth on vision, not sure all are obtainable.*
- *No Vision provided*
- *The statement of purpose should reflect that Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Panel is advisory in nature only. Hence it should be referred to as the Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Advisory Panel or better yet the Wabamun Lake Watershed Stewardship Group to reflect its desires to address broader watershed issues for the lake. It should also reflect a joint role and responsibility for lake stewardship. Also, perhaps this group should endeavor to formulate its governance, structure, and organizational bylaws to reflect a role as a Watershed Stewardship Group as envisioned by the Water For Life Strategy, for the Wabamun Lake watershed.*
- *I believe a measure of the health of the lake would include the viability of a sport and commercial fishery, healthy populations of waterfowl, songbirds and mammals, and the enjoyment the people, who live and visit the lake, have on and adjacent to the lake.*

Mission

Describe the tools, processes or fundamental strategies you would like to use to achieve your vision:

- *The primary mission of the Citizens' Panel is the development of a watershed plan along with the will of the government to endorse, sustain & financially support this plan, thus ensuring a healthy lake for all time.*
- *In this age, it is critical that Lake Wabamun be guided in all its development, ecological purpose, and environmental responsibility through the development of a comprehensive watershed plan to delegate and outline all disciplines required to manage this resource now and for future generations. Every aspect of environmental factors must be part of the "Wabamun Watershed Plan".*
- *Maintain a healthy water quality by preventing human intervention that could cause influents entering the lake or damaging the lake structure, therefore causing disruption to the ego system. A controlled management by authorities that the end results are maintained.*
- *Clean, free from weeds. Healthy fish stock. Can be enjoyed by boaters. One that is free from constant study.*
- *A healthy lake promotes recreational, economic and environmental growth. A place to bring future generations for enjoyment and education.*
- *Sustainable and useable by all.*
- *Able to swim without fear of reactions. Residents and non-residents deserve these facilities. Economically, large dollar numbers are spend in areas where public is attracted to for one reason or another.*
- *A panel would have the authority to look at Schindler's recommendations and decide, in a democratic manner, how to proceed and implement the Panel's decisions for the environmental, social and economic benefits of the lake community. This would be accomplished by informed decision making, with assistance from professional sources when needed.*
- *The provincial departments of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development through their joint legislative responsibilities cooperatively seek to establish provincial resource management objectives for Wabamun Lake and provide direction to staff, through the development of a Wabamun Lake Integrated Resource Management Plan. The plan will guide land use decision making and support municipal planning processes to ensure that the ecological integrity (and natural quality) of the shorelands and a high quality lake environment of Wabamun Lake will continue to be maintained for local communities and Albertans alike.*
- *Implement Dr. Shindlers recommendations, which were "to create a fish passage by installing an appropriate culvert under the roadway that presently acts as a weir, seal the illegal outlet completely, and to restore the original channel of the outlet stream." The Wabamun Lake Water treatment Plant should continue to pump water until the mean elevation mentioned above of 724.96M be restored, No manipulation of this level should be allowed. Once that level is reached, let Mother Nature take over as to how much water stays in the lake other than for making up water to replace that which is used or diverted from the lake for industrial activity. It will be crucial that the beaver dams downstream of Lake Wabamun be kept clear, as they are what caused flooding in the past, not the mean elevation of the lake.*
- *The panel will seek consensus among the various stakeholder groups to a strategy that alleviates or mitigates the various problems and issues on the lake by investigating the*

problems and possible solutions—using the best information available, choosing the ‘best practices’ and processes, deciding how they are to be implemented, and ensuring they are implemented. The panel will evaluate and assess what is achieved and report progress back to its various stakeholder constituencies. It will always strive to keep the various communities informed and involved, so that the Panel’s Vision is indeed the vision of all, and that all realize that is where we are going.

- *All levels of government (federal, province, villages, summer villages, county, etc.), residents, users, and visitors to the lake and drainage basin WILL take responsibility for the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmentally responsible policies, programs, practices, and custodianship of the lake and its drainage basin to ensure:*
 - *Water, shore, and bed quality is maintained or enhanced.*
 - *Strong populations of fish, birds, mammals, and all other animals can exist and grow in a healthy environment.*
 - *Industry, agriculture, transportation, and residents can operate without negative impact to the lake.*
 - *Wabamun Lake is seen as “the place to go or the place to be/live.”*
 - *Property values grow as a result of their proximity to the lake vs. decline or remain stagnant as a result of the negative stigma associated with lake due to negative media attention.*
 - *Current generation and those to come can enjoy the “lake lifestyle” as those of the past were able.*
 - *Wabamun Lake is marketed as a recreational and tourist destination and the media profile the lake and surrounding area in a positive manner.*

Insert Draft Mission developed at Workshop:

- *In agreement with summary Vision at Workshop.*
- *Use the three recommendations of the Schindler report under “Lake level, outlet, and water balance” found on page 4 of the report.*

Statement of Support - Mission:

I agree: 8 *Neutral/No Comment: 1* *I disagree*

Comments:

- *the advantages of a watershed plan should be widely circulated and understood by all involved in order to enlist public support (Please remember the “watershed idea” is new to most Albertans. Try television ads please!)*
- *The panel will not all agree on every one of Schindler’s recommendations and will have to be determined to achieve the priorities of the group as a whole.*

Objectives

Objectives provide a context for what the Citizens’ Panel will achieve within a definable time period. SMART objectives are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**imely.

To assist with this process and propose a framework for how the Citizen’s Panel will address the Schindler recommendations, Water For Life objectives, and emerging issues within the Lake Wabamun watershed, while recognizing the desire of community members to play a leading role in its development, the following objectives for 2006 and 2007 are presented:

1. Establish and ratify governance, structure, and organizational bylaws for the Lake Wabamun Citizens’ Panel subject to this Terms of Reference.

Statement of Support – Objective 1:

I agree: 12 Neutral/No Comment: 2 I disagree

2. Develop a decision making process for evaluating, prioritizing, and acting on current and emerging issues which affect public health and/or ecological integrity of the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Statement of Support – Objective 2:

I agree: 12 Neutral/No Comment: 1 I disagree

3. Review and prioritize the recommendations of Dr. David Schindler in his report titled “*Lake Wabamun: A Review of Scientific Studies and Environmental Impacts*” and develop a *(proposal for a) 5 (1) year Business (Implementation) Plan* with *(proposed)* measurable objectives for acting on these recommendations.

Statement of Support – Objective 3:

I agree: 8 Neutral/No Comment: 3 I disagree: 3

- *The group could do whatever it likes for its own operational purposes, however if one of its goals is to deal with the existing Report, it should propose to SRD/ENV a strategy for implementing the Report’s recommendations.*

4. Provide a forum for communication, debate, and planning coordination among representatives of the Lake Wabamun community and develop a plan for communicating the panels’ objectives, progress, and achievements to its partners, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Planning and Advisory Committee and the public.

Statement of Support – Objective 4:

I agree: 13 Neutral/No Comment: 1 I disagree

Comments:

- *A Citizens' Panel may find they have other or more objectives as well as objectives arising from Dr. Schindler's report; Dr. Schindler's report – p. 4 – Lake Level & Water Balance – This is difficult to understand (for me) when the changes to the outlet are discussed.*
- *The review and implementation of Schindler recommendations should form part only of the overall watershed plan. The panel should have sole control over the implementation of Schindler recommendations and should not be limited in any way to any process or other procedures that they deem necessary to properly administer the watershed plan.*
- *All communities surrounding the lake must join as one voice and not be splintered. Creating a joint Municipal governing body.*
- *Will not work if self-interest groups are involved. Witnessed over the years, the different views. One example is lake level. Schindler's report suggests it should be altered from the decision made in the early 90s.*
- *There will be other issues with regard to the lake that are not addressed in Schindler's Report. As previously stated, not all participants agree with all the recommendations Dr. Schindler has proposed.*
- *I believe that the initial business plan must be implemented in the first year, as far as the lake levels issues go. Otherwise we will be studying this thing for another 25 years and not coming to any resolution.*
- *I agree with the above but the panel should not limit itself to Schindler's study. Although it is important and should be addressed upfront, other issues, such as the train spill, will need to be addressed, even in the first couple of years.*

Geographic Scope

The Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel will be provided the opportunity to address any and all activities (*issues*) that may affect the environment or human health within:

- The delineated bed and shores of Lake Wabamun
- The Lake Wabamun surface water catchment area
- The underlying ground water aquifers as they relate to the health of Wabamun Lake
- The outlet and surface water catchment area of Wabamun Creek as they relate to the health of Wabamun Lake.

Statement of Support – Geographic Scope:

I agree: 10

Neutral/No Comment: 1

I disagree: 1

Comments:

- *I agree with addition of another bullet: The extension of coal mining in the area as this would affect Lake Wabamun*
- *In its initial processes the Panel should concentrate its efforts within the usually accepted parameters of lake watershed geography, but where deemed necessary for the health & safety of this watershed, the Panel should expand the geographical area of investigation as required (example: mining activities to the south and what about the north??)*

- *Regarding Business Plan, should be 3 years but designed for continuous review.*
- *Deterioration of Lake Wabamun has accelerated in recent years.*
- *Alberta Environment to make final decision.*
- *I'm not sure I would want the group to address individual activities that affect the environment. They should focus on issues related to types of activities in the general sense. Also this should be done in an overall lake management plan context so that regulatory agencies can make its decisions within a context of what the social and environmental limits of acceptable change are defined to be.*
- *I agree in as much as these are the areas that directly affect the lake. But do not forget we who live outside these areas but still near to the lake. The lake affects us in many ways, and we visit the lake on many occasions and in many ways*
- *I would also recommend the Citizen's Panel review all industrial, agricultural, and transportation development permit applications.*

Wabamun Citizens' Panel Workshop, March 11, 2006

Worksheet #2: How will the Citizens' Panel Operate

Throughout our consultation with area groups and individuals we heard that people were very supportive of and encouraged the use of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) consensus model. The guiding principles of the CASA model are described below. The adoption of all or part of these guiding principles by the Wabamun community will provide clear direction for the function and decision making structure of the Citizen's Panel.

Guiding Principles (based on CASA Consensus Model)

- *Purpose Driven* – The purpose, process, and expected outcomes will be clearly described such that those who might be affected by any decision have the ability to determine whether they have reason to participate.
- *Inclusiveness* – Participation on the Panel and contribution to decision-making will be inclusive of all interests affected by the respective decisions and/or actions of the Panel. Panel composition and membership will strive to reflect the diversity of stakeholders within the Lake Wabamun watershed.
- *Voluntary Participation* – Involvement is by individual choice. Active participation is expected and reinforces the value of this process in achieving both collective and individually desired outcomes.
- *Self Design* – The Panel will have full control over development of the process for satisfying consensus on any decision-making exercise. *Facilitation for Panel.*
- *Flexibility* – The Panel will have the flexibility to employ different methods for achieving consensus to best suit the needs of the circumstances at hand. Such processes will be clearly defined prior to a decision-making exercise. Panel members will demonstrate flexibility in trying to accommodate the schedules and needs of other members to ensure goals for inclusiveness are met.
- *Equal Opportunity* – All participants will be ensured equal access to information relevant for informed discussion-making (*should this read "discussion & decision-making?"*), and be given fair opportunity to participate throughout the process.
- *Mutual Respect* – Panel participants will exercise patience, tolerance, and respect toward others, and acknowledge that diverse viewpoints and open discussion serve to strengthen the decision-making process.
- *Accountability* – Panel participants are accountable to the communities they represent, to each other, and to the Citizens' Panel which they have agreed to support. Participants will be responsible for ensuring their opinions and values reflect those of their constituents, and promote awareness of Panel activities within their communities. Meeting minutes and decisions of the Citizens' Panel will be made publicly accessible (*not until approved*), and any member of the Wabamun Lake community is free to observe Panel meetings provided sufficient notification to the chair.
- *Time Limits* – Clear and reasonable time limits for working toward a decision, reaching key milestones, and reporting on results will be established.

- *Commitment to Implementation and Monitoring* – Panel Members will demonstrate their commitment to the process, through:
 - ✓ a commitment to participate in meetings and discussion
 - ✓ a commitment to complete action items and fulfill panel member responsibilities
 - ✓ a commitment to implement the agreements and recommendations achieved by consensus within their respective communities and/or associations, and report back to the Citizens’ Panel on the progress of implementation.

<i>Statement of Support – Guiding Principles:</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I agree: 12</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Neutral/No Comment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<i>I disagree</i>

Comments:

- *Re: Check mark #3 – Implementing? There is no enforcement mentioned here. Rather: a commitment, to the best of their abilities, to implement the agreements & recommendations achieved by consensus – etc.*
- *For any number of reasons it simply may not be possible for certain municipalities to implement certain agreements or recommendations of the Panel. Some specialized accommodations may be required.*
- *I strongly urge the Government to consider a facilitator, not to chair!*
- *The difficulty will be in finding people who remain focused & committed to this very important issue.*
- *The commitment in time and duration is huge. It should only be entered upon with people who are committed to stay the course.*
- *As long as the group is advisory in nature and inclusive of broad public interests in the lake as a public waterbody, SRD can support.*
- *In the commitment to implementation there needs to be a commitment by the Government to implement the Schindler report and/or all of the recommendations of this (yet another) task group. Otherwise the entire exercise will be nothing more than a sham to provide window dressing for the government’s own agenda that is probably already in place. (You bet I am cynical!)*
- *I agree, but as was pointed out in our discussion on March 11, the CASA model is based on equal representation from all stakeholders. Under the proposed panel of 20 members, equal representation will not be possible. It may be necessary to increase the panel to 25 members to address this inequality.*
- *I am not sure if the last item is achievable as it is written: “commitment to implement.....” I am not sure that many of the Panel members will have the resources it IMPLEMENT the agreements and recommendations of the Panel.*

Decision Making

The Citizens' Panel, Science Panel, and all Project and Working Groups will operate by consensus (*consensus is a poor form for good governance*). Consensus will be achieved when all parties to the Citizens' Panel can "live with" the outcomes of a decision. Consensus achieves the following desired goals for collaborative community-based decision-making:

- It facilitates greater dialogue and exchange of ideas in which potential solutions can be explored.
- It assures all participants within the decision making process an equal opportunity to contribute.
- It affirms areas of common value, and areas of disagreement among representatives of the community.
- It increases the efficiency and effectiveness of actions based on these decisions due to greater cooperation and less resistance by any single interest.
- It contributes to improved trust among members of the community.

Where consensus cannot be achieved, but the collective desire (>75%) of panel members is to move forward, those in disagreement with the course of action have the option of filing a "position statement". The "Position Statement" will be attached to the minutes of the meeting and any public correspondence referring to the decision would note that a Position Statement had been filed by the respective parties.

Statement of Support – Decision Making by Consensus:

I agree: 11 Neutral/No Comment: 1 disagree: 2

Panel Governance

- Chair (to be elected by the Panel)
- Panel (appointed by the respective stakeholder groups, or selected from nominations received by Alberta Environment) (*As SRD is the lake landowner, i.e. the owner of the bed and shores of the lake, it should automatically be represented on the Group without having to be "approved" by AENV*).
- Science Advisor (ex-officio - to be appointed by Alberta Environment *with input from Panel*)
- Facilitator/Coordinator (ex-officio - to be appointed by Alberta Environment)
- Working Groups (to be determined by the Panel and may include members of the panel, technical expertise, and/or members of the Lake Wabamun community.

Statement of Support – Panel Governance:

I agree: 10 Neutral/No Comment: 2 I disagree

- *I agree if Bullet #6 added: Paid recording secretary - is this part of a Facilitator/Coordinator?*
- *Need a paid recording secretary. Yes, Yes to the Facilitator/Coordinator. Should promote a "bank" of volunteers and use them.*

- *SRD would support, but requires that a provision be provided for alternates to support panel members.*

Jurisdictional and Regulatory Authority

The Alberta Environment will (*may*) support the decisions of the Citizen’s Panel provided that such decisions can demonstrate:

- 6) inclusiveness and equitable representation to the satisfaction of the Wabamun Lake Community.
- 7) consensus has been reached among the stakeholders
- 8) decisions and/or recommendations of the Citizens’ Panel are based on this consensus.
- 9) The Citizens’ Panel also recognizes the existing regulatory and jurisdictional authority of its members in addition to any Approvals or Agreements issued under such authority. (*don’t understand*)

Statement of Support – Jurisdictional and Regulatory Authority:

I agree: 10 *Neutral/No Comment: 1* *I disagree: 1*

Comments:

- *Re: 4) Does this refer to Alberta Environment, to the Energy & Utilities Board, or literally to Federal & Provincial Authorities who are the Citizens’ Panel members?*
- *It is best to establish the chain of authority at the beginning rather than to have conflict at a later date.*
- *It is imperative that members participate with an open mind and make decision on topic at hand, without digressing into previous agendas. Members should have the authority to implement decisions.*
- *AENV may be the initiator, but is not the owner of the process once initiated. AENV is also not the only regulator or authority with respect to the lake. If ENV desires to be bound by the decisions then that is their decision, but clearly does not commit other regulatory agencies to the same. SRD and DFO have direct regulatory authority governing many activities. Given nature broad nature of scope and objectives of the group beyond the immediate and specific recommendations of the report, regulators are not to be automatically bound by the Advisory Panel’s decisions. We are not willing to just provide a rubber stamp to the Panel’s decisions. We are to take them under strong advisement and if doable integrate them into our own planning and management schemes.*
- *Support is not enough, unless support means implementation of the decisions.*
- *The Science Advisor is designated ‘ex-officio’ which to my mind should not be counted as a panel member (thus opening another position to another stakeholder group).*
- *I am only somewhat in agreement with item #4. I think that if there is an existing agreement or approval that has a negative impact on the lake and its drainage basin that it should be open for discussion with a plan to make positive future change. “If the wrong things are currently being done, let’s not allow them to continue or at least not challenge why they can’t be changed.”*

Wabamun Citizens' Panel Workshop, March 11, 2006

Worksheet #3: Who will participate on the Citizens' Panel

Panel Composition

The Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel will comprise a maximum of 20 seats with representatives from the following:

<u>Sector Affiliation</u>	<u>Number of Seats</u>
Alberta Government	2 (3)
Federal Government	1
Local Government	7
Parkland County	
Village of Wabamun	
S.V. Seba Beach	
S.V. Betula Beach	
S.V. Point Alison	
S.V. Kapasiwin	
S.V. Lakeview	
Watershed Resident	3
Paul First Nations.....	1
TransAlta	1
NGO Environmental	2
NGO Recreational	2
Science Advisor	1

Another suggestion for the Citizens' Panel, the goal with this model is to place as many citizens as possible on the panel while ensuring the diverse interests around the lake are given a voice. Aside from Seba Beach, the summer villages are very small and are given disproportionate representation in the earlier proposal.

Voting Members

- Alberta government – 1*
- Federal government – 1*
- Mayor or councillor from Parkland County – 1*
- Mayor or councillor from the Village of Wabamun – 1*
- Mayor or councillor from the Summer Village of Seba Beach – 1*
- Mayor or councillor from the other summer villages around the lake – 1*
- Paul First Nation – 1*
- TransAlta Utilities representative residing within the watershed – 1*
- Other business, industry or agriculture representative residing within the watershed – 1*
- Summer and year-round camp representative residing within the watershed – 1*
- Boating and sailing community – 1*
- NGO environmental representatives residing within the watershed – 2*
- Permanent or seasonal resident from Wabamun – 1*

Permanent or seasonal resident from Seba Beach – 1

Permanent or seasonal residents living on the north shore, east of Seba Beach, west of the Paul Reserve, excluding the Village of Wabamun - 3

Permanent or seasonal residents living on the south shore, east of the Paul Reserve, west of Seba Beach - 2

Non-voting Members

Scientific advisor – 1

Alberta Environment liaison – 1

Independent facilitator and communicator – 1

Statement of Support – Panel Composition:

I agree: 6

Neutral/No Comment: 1

disagree: 6

Comments:

- *Representation for/on this Panel may be difficult to obtain – long-term commitment seems to be needed & interest needs to be sparked. “What’s this about a watershed plan? What is that? Why?” is a common question – please advertise and educate. Suggestion: If more than 20 representatives are forthcoming, keep them, for there will no doubt be attrition.*
- *Some flexibility desirable on the “20”, say plus 3 to minus 1. Do not ever refuse a volunteer – hold them in the “bank” to use in case normal retirements, sickness, relocation of members, etc. etc. Do not draw names from hats! Volunteers are too valuable. Choose by screening – let them know it!!*
- *An additional group added with one representative that being the Stony Plain Fish & Game Association/Wabamun Gun Club. This organization has been directly involved with Habitat Stewardship in the area for more than 30 years. Originally a 10-acre developed on the TransAlta properties under Bucks for Wildlife and recently the East Pit Lake and the Wabamun Conservation Properties north of Village of Wabamun. All total of approximately 1000 acres reserved for habitat.*
- *No more than 20 seats. Its important that local Government has a strong representation. Include MLA, farming sector, Fish and Game.*
- *The number of 20 seems reasonable. Depending on participation, the larger Municipalities such as Wabamun and Seba should perhaps have more than one rep. Also suggest that alternates be appointed. Council’s are only elected for three year terms.*
- *Need more representation from boaters.*
- *On occasion, certain specialists could be brought in to be consulted on issues which may be beyond the realm of panel members.*
- *Twenty members would seem like a workable group. I agree with the structure and selection of the panel. There could be a potential conflict if too many members come from one source, with closed minds and specific agendas. The comments are my observation as a participant in the workshop.*

- *Plus the following: A councilor from the County should be the County's representative. Panel should also include representative from CN, farming community, a health expert and another industry representative(s).*
- *AB Government is underrepresented. I view ENV and SRD-Public Lands and Forests Division as givens, however if health is one of the key factors of concern, then Alberta Health or the local health authority should be included.*
- *I believe that as many watershed residents that wish to participate should be allowed to. Many living within the County of Parkland do not feel adequately represented by those members sent to these task forces by the County, and therefore should be allowed to represent themselves. Also whatever number of representatives is used should be an odd number. There should be at least an equal number of non-government people involved as there are government people.*
- *See my comment under 'Guiding Principles' about number of members. In our discussion of March 11, we determined that the designation 'Local Government' should be changed to 'Local Residents' of those communities. This would allow these representatives to represent more than just the concerns of their respective governments. The 'TransAlta' representative should be renamed 'Industry' and be increased to 2 or 3 people, representing TransAlta as well as the gravel-mining and other industries having effect on the lake, etc.*
- *I have been invited to participate but am not sure which group I would be apart of. Am I a watershed resident? Who are the NGOs? Shouldn't Alberta Transportation and Infrastructure be represented (Yellowhead Highway, CN rail line, etc.)? Or are they one of the 2 provincial government reps? Is it the Federal government rep. from DFO? I believe more unincorporated subdivisions around the lake should be part of the Panel.*
- *After having attended the Wabamun Citizen's Panel Workshop and in discussions with our Associate Director, Nelson Fok, and Bob Mowat, Manager for Healthy Rural Environments, we believe that Capital Health's committee participation at this time, would be limited to an "ex officio" capacity rather than as a regular committee member. When there are matters or issues very specific to human health as it relates to contamination of recreational water and/or drinking water, then we would be happy to participate in a future meeting and provide information with a health perspective as needed. You may wish to contact Alex McKenzie or Kevin McLeod, at Alberta Health and Wellness, as they may have an interest in participating on this committee.*

Panel Selection

Panel members represent the diversity of perspectives, jurisdictional authorities and organizations active within the Wabamun Lake watershed. Each sector will be responsible for establishing a process for recruiting, appointing, and communication with their respective representatives on the panel. Each sector will forward their nomination(s) to Alberta Environment for subsequent screening (see detail below).

Nominations for membership on the Wabamun Citizens' Panel will be accepted until April 30, 2006, after which seats with no nominations will be declared vacant.

Successful nominees will be notified by May 5, and the first Citizen's Panel meeting will be tentatively scheduled for the last week of May (pending schedule coordination among members). Nominations received will be filed as a possible referral list for recruitment to individual Working Groups. *(Place excess in Volunteer "Bank")*

Alberta Government

Eligibility: Any employee of the provincial government representing a Ministry interest in the environmental and/or public health of the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Nomination: Ministry will forward nomination (resume, letter of interest) and two letters of support to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the immediate supervisor of the employee. The second letter will be from an equivalent peer within another Ministry.

Screening: A maximum of 1 seat per Ministry will be held. Nominations in excess of available seats will be screened based on recommendations from an internal Government of Alberta committee. *Should be re-defined, could have the municipal officers, Sustainable Development, Infrastructure, Environment, Agriculture, Energy, U of A. SRD has a regulatory role and it should suffice that the Ministry supply/appoint a suitable candidate and that's that.*

Federal Government

Eligibility: Any employee of the federal government representing a Ministry interest in the environmental and/or public health of the Lake Wabamun watershed.

Nomination: Ministry will forward nomination (resume, letter of interest) and two letters of support to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the immediate supervisor of the employee. The second letter will be from an equivalent peer within another Ministry.

Screening: A maximum of 1 seat will be held for federal representation. Nominations in excess of available seats will be screened based on recommendations from an internal Government of Canada committee.

Local Government

Eligibility: To be determined by the respective municipal government.

Nomination: Each municipal council will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) to Alberta Environment.

Screening: A maximum of 1 seat per incorporated municipality will be held. Seats declared vacant will be made available for the "Watershed Resident" sector for the remainder of that term.

Watershed Resident

Eligibility: Any permanent or part-time resident within the Lake Wabamun watershed. Special interests within this sector include but are not limited to: cottage owners, agricultural producers, business owners, camp/marina operators, and day-users, with an expressed interest in protecting the health of Lake Wabamun.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) and two letters of support from the community they have declared to represent to Alberta Environment. For example, residents from un-incorporated subdivisions would accompany their nomination with two letters from other residents within that subdivision to be declared a representative of 'ABC Beach' on the Citizens' Panel. Residents within

incorporated Summer Villages, Parkland County, and the Village of Wabamun are encouraged to copy their nomination to their respective municipal councils.

Screening: A minimum of three seats will be held for Watershed Residents. Up to a maximum of 10 seats is available should other municipal government seats be declared vacant. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of seats available, Alberta Environment will do the following screening:

- Individual nominations from the same subdivision or sector interest will be encouraged to designate a single representative or opt to select by random draw.
- Representatives will be selected to incorporate as broad a perspective as possible of the diversity of interests around the lake.
- Representatives will be selected to reflect the geographical distribution of interests around the lake.

Paul First Nations

Eligibility: To be determined by the Paul Band Chief and Council.

Nomination: The Paul Band will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) to Alberta Environment.

Screening: A maximum of 1 seat for the Paul Band will be held. *In my previous experience in dealing with the Aboriginal community, groups that are their but not as representatives of the Band Council will quickly tell you they do not represent and hence speak for Council. As such, to be effective, a member of the Council should be on group to speak for Council or at minimum authorize the member to speak for Council.*

TransAlta

Eligibility: To be determined by TransAlta.

Nomination: TransAlta will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) to Alberta Environment.

Screening: A maximum of 1 seat for TransAlta will be held.

NGO Environment

Eligibility: Any member or employee of an organization with a mandate for the protection of the environment.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) and two letters of support from within their sector to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the Executive of the respective organization, and one letter will be from the executive of another organization within the same sector. Only 1 nomination per group/association will be accepted.

Screening: A maximum of 2 seats for NGO Environmental representatives will be held. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of seats available, Alberta Environment will conduct a random draw (*review*) for 2 seats (*never*) of all eligible nominations received.

NGO Recreational

Eligibility: Any member or employee of an organization with a mandate for coordinating or promoting recreational activities on Lake Wabamun.

Nomination: Interested individuals will forward their nomination (resume, letter of interest) and two letters of support from within their sector to Alberta Environment. One letter will be from the Executive of the respective organization, and one letter will be from the executive of another organization within the same sector. Only 1 nomination per group/association will be accepted.

Screening: A maximum of 2 seats for NGO Recreational representatives will be held. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of seats available, Alberta Environment will conduct a random draw (*review*) for 2 seats (*never*) of all eligible nominations received.

Science Advisor

This ex-officio designated position will initially be appointed by Alberta Environment for the first 2 year term. Subsequent appointments will be made by recommendation of the Citizens' Panel. The Science Advisor would facilitate additional independent research/review of the environmental issues recognized by the Citizen's Panel and act as liaison to, and chair of, a parallel science advisory group.

Statement of Support – Panel Selection:

I agree: 7 *Neutral/No Comment: 2* *I disagree: 1*

Comments:

- *A “draw” seems ridiculous – people may have to be “cajoled” to be on this panel! Resumes and letters of interest make this sound as if a salary will be involved. Finding willing workers for this project will be difficult (I live at Kapasiwin & so far have no one in mind!). The procedure outlined, although democratically reasonable seems cumbersome and almost laughable!*
- *I agree providing comments in body of text are addressed.*
- *If seats are not filled by any one municipality, that vacant seat should be filled by another municipality. In your Panel composition, you have listed one for Paul Band, but show 2 in other information.*
- *In principal I agree with the structure of the panel. I foresee that there might be some commitment problems. You are asking for a time commitment of 2-5 years and need to ensure that members of this group are up to the task,*
- *As discussed at March 11/06 Citizens' Panel Workshop, panel members would be selected on merit of application rather than by a draw of names.*
- *I agree to a point. There may be a need to increase the representation of both the environmental as well as recreational community. For example, it was pointed out in our discussion that there are several different interests groups with varying opinions in the boating community(ies). As well, the Stony Plain Fish and Game and Wabamun Gun Club represents both recreational and environmental concerns (i.e., members are recreational, but the club as a whole participates in many conservation activities and projects around and on the lake—more than any other group over the years). You may want to have a separate representative from this group. Also, see my note above with regard to industry.*

Lake Wabamun Citizens' Panel Visioning Workshop
Saturday, March 11, 2006
Jubilee Hall - Village of Wabamun

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION SUMMARY

1. Overall, I was pleased with the format of the afternoon.

- **Strongly Agree - 3**
- **Agree - 11**
- **Disagree -**
- **Strongly Disagree -**

Comments:

- *Good facilitator Catrin.*
- *Congrats to the discussion group leaders for a job well done.*
- *Only disappointment being lack of participation by what I would consider major stakeholders, business owners, residents, etc.*
- *Enable every participant to hear differing opinions and to study common values*

2. I felt that I could express my ideas openly and ask questions freely.

- **Strongly Agree - 6**
- **Agree - 8**
- **Disagree -**
- **Strongly Disagree -**

Comments:

- *The participants did not hog the discussion and everyone had their say.*
- *Was able to express my views openly and views were respected.*
- *Smaller groups gave everyone the opportunity to speak freely.*

3. I believe this was a valuable exercise.

- **Strongly Agree - 5**
- **Agree - 9**
- **Disagree -**
- **Strongly Disagree -**

Comments:

- *This is a start.*
- *12 pages of workshop is a lot for people (on the fringe) to digest all in a 4 hour session*
- *There are definitely action required and hope this exercise does not die on the vine.*
- *Value will be added if this group achieves their objectives.*

4. I found the location, time and day of this workshop convenient.

- Strongly Agree -3
- Agree - 8
- Disagree - 3
- Strongly Disagree -

Comments:

- *I am a full time resident so Wabamun was very convenient location.*
- *Bearing in mind time of year, weather problems and people not yet in "Lake Mode" the meager response did not surprise me. Sat. for 4 hrs maybe??? Notable no shows worry me, e.g. no feds/parkland/Paul Band/Transalta/only 2 of 5 S.V's with direct representation.*
- *Location was good.*
- *Good venue, but I'm sure Bill Purdy could have had the heat turned up.*
- *The location was convenient. I am not in favour of weekend meeting! Free time is precious and there is never enough.*

5. I have the following suggestions for future workshops.

Comments:

- *I would wish to have meetings closer to the city, mid ground.*
- *Looks good.*
- *Good group to work with. If the positive attitude continues there should be future for the Lake for its many users.*
- *A widely advertised meeting to generate greater citizen interest.*
- *Village councils are rather loosely structured over the winter months. When the summary of the workshop is ready you must be sure that all mayors & councilors get it and more importantly react with action regarding reps. Remember till the ice is gone most cottagers aren't thinking lake and lake meetings.*
- *Small group discussions require more "focus" on discussion topics, rather than being controlled by groups with specific agendas. Eg. One group member dropped out of my group because specific topics were not discussed, and another stated quite clearly that the citizens' panel should be called Lake Wabamun Watershed Panel or they would not attend. Is this not putting cart before the horse? Surely these decisions should come from the panel.*
- *None at this point.*
- *Either evening or day time meetings are better suited to have maximum participation. Enthusiasm will wane as the weather improves. Once the mission statement is established, timing and actions must be efficient. Less talk more action.*