



Water Services Community Advisory Panel | 2010 Annual Report

Purpose

The EPCOR Water Services Community Advisory Panel (CAP) has been operating and evolving for fifteen years. It provides a forum for public consultation and input related to a variety of emerging issues in the water industry, including impact on the community, water service area, and the environment. Members represent Commercial/Industrial, Environmental, Governmental, and Residential sectors.

Members

Mike Stewart Saputo (Industrial rep.)	Greg Edwards Associated Engineering (Land Developers rep.)	Nevin Evans Maple Leaf Prop. Mgmt (BOMA rep.)
Harold Hornig Edm. Fed. Community Leagues (Small Commercial rep. -- outgoing)	Nigel Bowles Landscape AB Trades Assoc. (Commercial rep.)	Brian Brownlee (Condo Assoc. rep.)
Alf White Edm. Fed. Community Leagues (Small Commercial rep. -- incoming)	Mike Kohlenberg University of Alberta (Large Commercial rep.)	Gary Woloshyniuk City of Edmonton (Office of Environment rep.)
Giselle Beaudry AB Environment (Environment rep.)	Chris O'Brien (new) EPCOR (New Panel Chair)	
Liliana Malesevic City of Edmonton (Drainage Branch rep.)	Cindy Shepel (new) EPCOR Rossdale WTP	



2010 Accomplishments

Highlights

The Water Community Advisory Panel (CAP) provided input into a number of EPCOR-directed initiatives, along with others in which EPCOR was a primary participant. These included studies on water use / demand, and water quality – both treated water quality and surface water quality.

Water Demand

The Panel reviewed and commented on EPCOR's water demand research conducted in both the domestic and commercial sectors. As the studies continue, a better understanding of water use patterns and the factors which cause them will help direct targeted conservation strategies for high water users in both sectors.

Water Conservation / Water Quality

Some of the water conservation and water quality topics covered included:

- 2nd annual rain barrel program
- Blue Bucket Crew (bluebucketcrew.ca) campaign
- Drainage Services' constructed wetlands; Kennedale wetland is

City's first designed specifically for treating stormwater runoff

- Rosedale water treatment plant dechlorination project (removing chlorine from plant's waste streams)

Ongoing Studies / Programs

A few ongoing programs were reviewed, and the changes and improvements to them highlighted. CAP members provided insight on the following:

- Lead service line replacement – agreed that Point of Source water filters were the practical solution to lead removal where homeowner disinclined to pay for water service replacement.
- Home sniffing program – asked whether perceptions differ from high-rise dwellers to single family occupants, especially where the age demographics might be skewed in downtown condos? Agreed that the web-based data uploading is in tune with the times and more customer-friendly.
- Commercial Water Use study – discussion around how best to target condo associations or boards, especially since many condos are not individually metered or owner-occupied. Suggestion was to target property management companies to get conservation message to residents who might otherwise have no incentive to conserve.



EPCOR Re-Branding

CAP members commented on EPCOR's new branding, the result of the new focus on water and wires following the divestiture of the power generation side of the business. This new look and feel would see its major public debut at the Grey Cup celebrations for which EPCOR was a major sponsor. Overall, CAP members liked the new graphics, a positive change from what was seen as an "institutional appearance" with previous print and web materials.

Special Interests

Among the diverse topics that the Panel reviewed in 2010 were presentations on: GIS role in water main replacement and overall rehabilitation of the water network; optimization of wastewater solids through co-digestion; Gold Bar WWTP land rezoning; and EPCOR's long term (2011-2015) plan.

Panel Changes

CAP membership remained relatively stable in 2010. After several years on the Panel, Harold Hornig, EFCL representative, stepped down mid way through the year. Harold's replacement, Alf White, is another long-time community volunteer, including his current role on the EFCL board. Best

wishes to Harold in his future endeavours, and a warm welcome to Alf.

At the December meeting, Mike Stewart introduced Geoff Doucet, also from Saputo Foods, who will share duties as large industrial customer representative on the CAP. Welcome aboard, Geoff.

Public participation is critical to EPCOR's success. Our sincere appreciation and thanks are extended to all Water CAP members for their time, expertise, and input provided over the year.

Panel Information

The Panel members shared a wide range of information and expertise on various emerging issues, including:

- AENV is conducting a review of the province's water allocation system.
- Drainage Services is completing a study on mass loadings to river (from stormwater and combined sewer outfalls), with aim to cap at 2005 levels for next twenty years by considering various mitigatory measures.
- U of A's south campus development proceeds; aim is to achieve minimum LEED Silver designation through things like district heating, wetlands and alternate fuel sources.



PROVIDING MORE



- Edmonton Minor Soccer experimenting with sub-surface irrigation systems, seeking to produce hardier grasses requiring less maintenance and lowered water use.
- Long term environmental management plan for Edmonton – “The Way We Green” – including EPCOR discussion papers on water quality and water quantity as part of the initial public consultation process.
- Reducing Fats/Oils/Grease (FOG) at source to reduce overall water and drainage charges, including surcharges for over-strength wastewater.
- EFCL Board to work with City Council on more infill development, as a way of preserving older communities and keeping schools open.
- BOMA makes on line courses available for building managers on Energy Management and HVAC Systems.
- Separate metering of community outdoor skating rinks is available to save on sanitary sewer charges by contacting the City’s Drainage Services.
- Canadian Standards Association releases draft of new standards for domestic wastewater and grey water use in irrigation and toilet flushing.

2011 Initiatives

In the coming year, the panel will focus on several important issues including: Performance Based Regulations renewal; targeted marketing programs for residential water wasters; cost of service study; and public education about tap water quality.

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