

Minutes of the 7th WCSB Meeting May 18th, 2006 at Calgary (AGS Host)

Final Issued October, 2006

Note: These minutes are very short and intended to direct the reader to the attached files which in essence record the proceedings.

The meeting commenced at 8:30 with a brief introduction and roundtable followed by:

8:45 – 9:00 – **Objectives and purpose of WCSB Working Group** (by Derek Brown)

Derek noted we should focus on:

1. What outcomes, interests and activities bind us together, and we should list these.
2. We should challenge ourselves as to what we can realistically accomplish as a group of collaborative geoscientists, and not be complacent.

9:00 – 11:30 – **Program Reviews/Updates** (each jurisdiction)

See the included seven (7) PPTs for each jurisdiction (AB, BC, MN, NT, SK, YT & GSC; for NEB there was only a verbal report). A few 'highlights' for each jurisdiction follow:

- AB (Parks):
 - AGS core businesses are: *Resource Assessment, Geological Mapping, Environmental Geology, Energy and Subsurface Systems, Knowledge Management*
 - AGS is embarking on a review of its program in 2006 to ensure ongoing alignment, focus and relevance to the citizens of Alberta
- BC (Brown):
 - Future hydrocarbon potential is in the 'unconventional' realm; i.e., tight gas, shale gas, CBM, etc.
 - Cross-border collaborative work on shale gas would be beneficial
 - There is a need to 'Marry Geoscience with Resource Development'; an example of this is aggregate mapping because this commodity is important in northeastern BC to facilitate energy development
- MN (Bezys):
 - MN core activities are: *Industrial Minerals and Aggregate, Land Use Studies, Phanerozoic and Quaternary Mapping, General Investigations*
 - TGI2 Williston Basin Project was a large cross-jurisdictional (MN, SK, GSC) activity that was important to advancing the WCSB geology in Manitoba
 - MN management loves cooperative across-border projects
- NT (Jones):
 - NTGO is a GNWT and Gov't of Canada joint initiative
 - Primary activities include: *Minerals & Bedrock Mapping, Petroleum Geoscience, Geomatics, Information Services, Public Outreach, Resource Assessments*
 - During 2005, the Petroleum Geoscience group has grown from 2 to 6. They have 3 geologists dedicated full time to Outreach (because they view part of their role as 'paving the way' for geoscience studies and industry development)
 - They anticipate, or expect, that gas may be flowing south along the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline in about 2010

- It was noted that the total oil/gas wells drilled to date in NWT is about 1,200, with 400 of these at Norman Wells and about 120 in the Arctic Islands
- SK (Whittaker):
 - SK core activities are: *Geoscience Framework Projects (regional subsurface mapping projects), Stratigraphically and areally defined geoscience studies, and Saskatchewan Phanerozoic Bibliography*
 - Saskatchewan is currently having a problem filling positions and retaining staff due to the high level of activity in both the energy and minerals industry
 - Have a University Geoscience Research program that is supported by a grant program of \$60K/year
- YT (Pigage):
 - YT key activities include: *Yukon Surficial Geology, Liard Basin, Whitehorse Trough, North Yukon, Land Use Planning, Mackenzie Valley pipeline, Regulatory Changes*
 - They have recently hired two young resource assessment geologists.
 - Pigage noted that in YT only 73 oil/gas wells, in total, have been drilled in the Yukon to date
- NEB (Hogue & Davidson)
 - Have issued several reports over the past three years on the status of hydrocarbon resources in the main prospective basins in Canada, and more specifically within Alberta and B.C.
 - However, due to lack of staff and expertise, has been difficult for them to do much with respect to the 'East Coast'
 - They are looking for 'partnerships' to enhance what they and other jurisdictions can collaboratively accomplish

11:30-12:15 - **Summary of progress on the Structural Compilation ('Faults') Project for the WCSB, with participation from AB, MN, SK & BC** (by Olson & Pana for AB, Whittaker for SK, and Bamburak for MN)

- See the individual PPTs attached for these three presentations by AB, SK & MN
- Derek Brown noted that B.C. had started on this compilation, but work on it had been deferred and they needed to re-start in order to better integrate with AB, SK & MN
- Jones & Pigage requested that Pana of AGS send example structural database and compilation methodology so YT and NWT could better evaluate whether they could similarly collaborate with the 'Faults'
- Question was raised as to when the compilation is completed (i.e., for AB, SK, MN & hopefully BC) how will it be released? For example, (a) jointly or individually and (b) what would be the 'cost' to get it into publicly available form
- Bezys favoured a digital release, and preferably on a 'common web site' for the WCSB Working Group
- In general it was agreed that for the WCSB Fault Structural Compilation, the Working Group should:
 - Bring the current project to a '3-year' closure by the next WCSB Working Group meeting in Regina in 2007
 - Then 're-brand' and put forward what should be done next as a 'New Project' (e.g., the role of the Precambrian basement with respect to fault generation in the overlying Phanerozoic strata of the WCSB)
 - We should seek opportunities this fall winter to publicize the results to date; e.g., (a) prepare a poster for use at the Energy Ministers meeting scheduled for August 27 –

29 in Yukon (Abbott to confirm such is OK re protocols for this meeting), (b) prepare a poster, or posters, for presentation at the Saskatchewan and Northern Plains Oil & Gas Symposium, Oct. 17 & 18, 2006 in Regina, and the (c) 15th Williston Basin Petroleum Conference & Prospect Expo to be held April-May 2007 in Regina

1:00 – 1:30 - **Provincial (AB, BC, SK) and federal (GSC TGI) contribution to Climate Change Initiatives, including Plains CO2 Reduction Partnership** (by S. Bachu)

- See PPT by Stefan Bachu

1:30 – 2:00 - **Review of GSC Energy Program** (by G. Stockmal)

- See PPT by Stockmal
- The 'Secure Canadian Energy Supply' program was rated as #1 under the GSC 'Gating method' for rating programs
- Cecile noted that 'Resource Assessment Blue Books' are likely to be important both federally and provincially

2:00 - 2:30 - **Overview of the NGSC Meeting of May 17, 2006**

- In attendance at this meeting were: Brown for B.C., Parks for AB, Whittaker for SK, Bezys for MN, Abbott for YT, Jones for NWT, and Cecile representing Calgary GSC office
- Some key highlights include: (a) historically the NGSC has mainly focused on 'minerals', but there was discussion as to whether a re-structured NGSC should include energy, environment, etc. representation; (b) Brown, Parks and Cherry are to prepare an Action Item re a possible new structure for NGSC
- Otherwise, there was little that impacts directly on the WCSB Working Group

2:30 – 4:00 - **Discussion to identify or re-confirm common interests and collaborative activities to be completed within some future defined time period**

- The 'key clients' for WCSB Working Group members include: (a) Industry, (b) government, both regulatory and policy, (c) general public, from broad to local, (d) Non-government organizations (NGOs), and (e) 'others' such as First Nations, Land-use advocates, Watershed Groups, EnergyInet, etc.
- Some Key Activities or Actions the WCSB Working Group might collaboratively initiate include:

Some Key 'Bonds' & Proposed 'Actions'	Action By	Due Date
Joint Map/Poster for Mines/Energy Ministers meeting	Brown of BC	August 2006
Joint Logo for WCSB Working Group	Parks of AB	July 2006
Joint web/site (NOTE: content for this is to come from the poster to be prepared for the Mines/Energy Ministers meeting by Brown)	Jones of NWT	Unspecified
Formation of an Industry Liaison/Steering Groups - Need to define who, when, what, how and feedback type	Parks of AB	Unspecified
Align programs with universities	Ad hoc	As possible
Involve northern USA states, especially N. & S. Dakota & Montana	Ad hoc	As possible

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Seek a few selected key future marketing venues; e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oct. 17 & 18, 2006: Northern Plains Symposium, in Regina, SK - Feb. 1 & 2, 2007: NAPE (North American Petroleum) Expo (possibly attend), in Houston, TX - April 1 to 4, 2007: AAPG Annual Convention (possibly attend), in Long Beach, CA - April 29 to May 1, 2007: Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, in Regina, SK - May 14 to 17, 2007: CSPG Annual Convention, in Calgary, AB. NOTE: Suggested that a meeting with industry be held on the day after CSPG (at NEB Hearing Room in Calgary) to showcase WCSB activities (e.g., fault compilation) - May 23 to 25, 2007: GAC-MAC AGM, in Yellowknife, NT - June 12 to 14, GO-Expo Gas & Oil Exposition (possibly attend), in Calgary, AB - June 13 & 14, 2007: Inuvik Petroleum Show, in Inuvik, NT Perhaps should prepare a WCSB 'Pavilion' for use at one or more of the above convention venues	Whittaker Brown ? Whittaker Parks, Davidson Jones ? Jones ?	
Possible Collaborative Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrocarbon Assessment studies ('blue books'): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MN will need help to do -B.C. did with help of NEB - Basement and regional geophysical studies to complement the ongoing WCSB Structural Compilation - Hydrogeology, perhaps especially AB - Basin modeling - Petroleum systems - Unconventional gas studies, including: (a) CBM, (b) shale gas, (c) tight gas, (d) unconventional hydrocarbon 'success stories', etc. - Outreach coordination - Mackenzie Valley Pipeline - Recruiting strategies to address demographics, knowledge transfer, etc. 		

4:00 – DECISIONS: The WCSB Working Group Meeting in 2007

The next WCSB Working Group Meeting will be hosted by the Geological Survey of Southern Saskatchewan; Chris Gilboy and/or Steve Whittaker will coordinate, set dates and issue an Agenda. It is probable the next WCSB Working Group meeting will be held in conjunction with the 14th Williston Basin Petroleum Conference & Prospect Expo, which is scheduled for April 29 to May 1 in Regina. Therefore, a tentative date for the next WCSB meeting is Wednesday, May 2, 2007 in Regina; Gilboy or Whittaker are to confirm.