



**Peace River Regional District Groundwater Baseline Study
Public Outreach Summary (May 5-7) Dawson Creek, Chetwynd Fort St. John**

Presenter: Dr. Gilles Wendling, GW Solutions Inc., Nanaimo BC
Facilitator: Reg Whiten, InterraPlan Inc., Moberly Lake

Executive Summary Synopsis of PRRD Groundwater Baseline Study Public Outreach

As a result of the three public information sessions which were conducted around the Peace Region, several key themes emerged which sought clarification about what has been completed of the Groundwater baseline study, and comments/suggestions for completing the project. Public feedback is reported in Appendix A (facilitator notes) and in Appendix B (PRRD minutes) with public comments, questions and matters requiring follow-up response. A listing of participants is provided in Appendix C.

Following on the two presentations by Dr. Wendling, the facilitator asked the open question: What do you consider are the key issues and questions about the Study and the use of the groundwater baseline data?

Study Application

- participants commented that the Study could be used for the following water management purposes in the PRRD (i) protecting rural/private drinking water wells (ii) managing industrial water use (supply and quality mgt) for the oil/gas (fracking), agricultural and municipal water purveying sectors; (iii) protecting deep aquifer supply, flows and quality (iv) understanding the connection between wetlands and groundwater recharge (v) managing land-use to protect groundwater (vi) getting a general picture of the groundwater formations, interconnections with surface features, and water quality trends.

Priority Issues for Groundwater Management

- a consistent theme of enquiry was a focus on the relationship of extractive resource developments (agriculture, oil/gas, mining, etc.) and groundwater management (i) what is being done at present to protect aquifers? (ii) how will the Study will be used to identify and evaluate risks from surface and sub-surface activities, operations and facilities? (iii) are there specific or concentrated zones of concentrated land-use development that will be examined?
- the topic of groundwater monitoring was of interest and questions raised about (i) how they are located (ii) how could the network be expanded (e.g. through partnerships with private and industry source water wells?); (iii) how can decisions be made about major expansion of shale gas development without adequate monitoring of the groundwater?
- concern was expressed about an apparent disconnect between resource agencies and the research initiatives given differences in mandates and it was not clear how all the information will be shared, integrated and used for improved decision-making.

Guidance for Further Research or Action

- in all three sessions, participants raised the question about the incorporation of industry and BCOGC data from oil/gas well drilling and source water well development information as applicable;
- detailed information on key areas (Tupper/Swan Lake; West Pine; Moberly Lake North/South shores, Goodlow/Faye Springs areas, Kiskatinaw River Watershed, Chetwynd Aquifer, Peace River/FSJ Water supply)
- several participants pointed to interest in having certain aspects of local knowledge incorporated in the study: (i) identification of known springs and artesian wells (ii) areas of potential contaminant risk from existing developments (produced water storage, land waste and deep injection well disposal zones (iii) consideration of existing land/water mgt plans where groundwater is identified as relevant; and
- understanding the existing natural function of watersheds/hydrological regimes was presented as a need going forward including recharge features, and links to surface water.



Groundwater Public Outreach Sessions (clockwise: Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Chetwynd)

