

July 11, 2002

New members appointed to Natural Resources Conservation Board

Edmonton... Government has appointed new members to the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). The NRCB requires additional expertise because the Board is now responsible for reviewing Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) proposals, effective January 2002.

The new full board members are: Dr. Gordon Atkins, Maureen Schwab, Jim Turner, and Brady Whittaker. Dr. Brian Bietz remains as Chair of the Board.

The NRCB also includes acting board members who can be called upon when additional expertise is needed. New acting board members are Jack Campbell, Dr. Robert Powell, Ada Rawlins, and Jim Smith. Other acting members who remain on the Board include Lorne Goff, Archie Grover, William Hull, William Kennedy, Sheila Leggett and Carolyn Dahl Rees. Neil McCrank will move from a full member to an acting member position.

The NRCB is a quasi-judicial tribunal. It has a mandate to review natural resource projects that involve the forest industry, non-energy mining, recreation, or water management development. Starting January 1, 2002 the Board's mandate expanded to include reviewing, approving, monitoring and enforcing regulations for Confined Feeding Operations.

The NRCB operates as an independent board that reports directly to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

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Natural Resources Conservation Board Backgrounder

Gordon A. Atkins

, D.V.M., Calgary

Dr. Atkins has practiced veterinary medicine since 1973 and has run Atkins Veterinary Services in Calgary for the past three years. He is a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, and the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Maureen P.J. Schwab

, Drayton Valley

Ms. Schwab is the owner and operator of the Purebred Cattle Corporation. She has also served as Reeve and Councillor with the Municipal District of Brazeau, sat on a wide variety of municipal committees, and has volunteered her time with a number of community organizations.

Jim Turner

, Cochrane

Mr. Turner operates a mixed farm and ranch along with his father and brother. Outside his farming operation, Mr. Turner is involved in a number of local, provincial and national organizations including the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Agriculture and Food Council, and the Canadian Cattleman's Association.

Brady D. Whittaker

, Whitecourt

Mr. Whittaker owned and operated Aerial Recon Surveys, a company whose services include environmental assessments. Mr. Whittaker has also served as Mayor on the Whitecourt Town Council and on a variety of municipal committees.

Jack M. Campbell

, Edmonton

Mr. Campbell was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Rocky Mountain House in 1979 and remained the MLA until 1989. During his terms, he was appointed to a number of boards, many of them focused on agriculture and forestry.

Robert Powell

, Ph D., P. Biol., St. Albert

Dr. Powell has ten years of experience providing technical advice to NRCB panels, managing public hearings and assisting the Board in preparing its decisions. He is a professional biologist and has extensive experience in environmental consulting and scientific research.

Ada M. Rawlins

, Chestermere

Ms. Rawlins has a history of extensive community involvement. She was elected as a council member for the Town of Chestermere for a three-year term in October 1998, and has also been a member of the Olds College Board of Governors since 1996. She is actively involved with the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Jim Smith

, Mountainview

Mr. Smith has agricultural and environmental experience, extending from valuations on agricultural properties to the design of remediation and/or clean-up programs for environmental spills. He is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and the Society for Range Management.

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