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2012 – YEAR IN REVIEW

Organizational

Larry Bell, Bell Energy accepted the nomination as Chairman of the WCSS Board of Directors to the next annual general meeting scheduled for June 6th, 2013. The Enbridge Board representative was replaced by Stephen Lloyd in 2012 and other existing Directors remained the same.

A succession plan for key WCSS positions was presented to the Board of Directors in Q1, 2012 and the annual strategic planning session was held in Q2, 2012. The WCSS policy linked to spills of unknown

origin was updated in 2012 and can be viewed on the WCSS website (www.wcss.ab.ca).

WCSS would like to thank Plains Midstream and Pengrowth for providing volunteers for the Executive Sub- Committee:

Chris Labrie, Area D Chairman
Nolan Steinwand, Area E Alternate Chairman

The membership fee schedule remained unchanged from 2011; no membership fee increases for the service fee, per well and/or km of pipeline.

Spill Involvement

WCSS was directly involved in 14 oil spills in 2012 which included 6 spills where our equipment was deployed for containment and recovery operations in surface water. WCSS also assisted provincial regulators with 6 spills of unknown origin.



Spill of Unknown Origin – Rat Creek, AB, Feb 2012



Containment at Gleniffer Lake –
June 2012

Equipment utilized by member companies for spill response included 29 units including OSCAR trailers, specialized skimmers, lake boom and wildlife units with another 18 boats also utilized during response activities. In total response units were used for 188 days and boats for 123 days in 2012.



Equipment



WCSS replaced the Fort McMurray barge, added a third wildlife response unit and refurbished the air curtain incinerator. A significant amount of effort and time was required to assess equipment, coordinate repairs and replace consumables or damaged equipment from spills that occurred during the year.

WCSS would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of oil spill containment boom from Plains Midstream.

Field Improvement

WCSS built a portable test tank and in August had Environment Recovery Equipment (ERE) demonstrate their Oriliminator 30 heavy oil skimmer; the skimmer was very effective in the recovery of heavy, viscous oil. The field improvement program in 2013 will continue to focus on containment and recovery issues linked to heavy oil, diluted bitumen and sunken and submerged oil.



ERE Heavy Oil Skimmer

Training

WCSS oil spill cooperatives held 20 annual training exercises in 2012 including:

- 2 winter exercises
- 6 equipment deployment exercises in a small river
- 5 equipment deployment exercises in a large river or lake
- 5 spill responder courses
- 2 WCSS awareness programs with dry land equipment deployment



**Area P Large River Exercise:
Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park September 2012**

In addition to the annual exercises, WCSS held open registration courses that included Spill Responder, Incident Commander at Oil Spills, Land Spill Response, MED A3 and Boat Handling. WCSS also conducted a 19 contract courses that were highly successful including WCSS Awareness, equipment deployment, winter spill response, MED A3 and boat handling, Incident Commander at Oil Spills and an Oil Spill Management program that was delivered to students in Istanbul, Turkey.



Communications

In Q1 WCSS participated in a large table-top exercise hosted by Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization, in Q2 presented a paper at the 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Water Management Canada conference and presented a WCSS overview at Mount Royal University. In Q3 we displayed equipment at the Leduc #1 65th year extravaganza and at the Lloydminster petroleum show. In Q4 WCSS participated in Natural Resources Canada's workshop on spill response capability for diluted bitumen products and we sent delegates to the Clean Gulf Oil Spill conference.

WCSS's new website came on-stream in late December; check it out at www.wcss.ab.ca.

- To update your Oil Spill Contingency manual just go to the home page and look for News Updates.
- Registering for annual exercises will help our members ensure compliance with D071. Go to the Coop Exercise Schedule to use the new online registration tool:
<http://www.wcss.ab.ca/training/coop-schedule.asp>
- To see a current inventory of any equipment unit, remember to go to the Live Equipment Report.
<http://www.wcss.ab.ca/equipment.asp>



Priorities in 2013

Our future focus will be to maintain an effective organization to support our 600+ members in spill preparedness and provide response support through continuous improvement in training courses and exercises, financial stability, equipment management and communications with all stakeholders.



Partial display at Leduc #1 Discovery Energy Centre's 65th Anniversary

2013 WCSS Membership Fees

This is a reminder that the 2013 WCSS membership fee package will be sent in the next few weeks to all licensees of wells (except wells that are suspended under provincial guidelines and/or wells that produce < 2M³/month) and all pipelines licensed by the ERCB, B.C. Oil and Gas Commission and Area 1 Saskatchewan Ministry of Economy. Licensees can be in compliance with spill preparedness regulations by being a member in good standing with a WCSS Oil Spill Cooperative or having an approved plan with the regulator. An approved plan includes having a contingency plan, access to spill response equipment and conducting annual training exercises.

Please help us by paying your WCSS membership fees in a timely fashion.

WCSS Volunteers

In the early 1970s when Oil Spill Cooperatives were formed in Western Canada the upstream petroleum industry agreed that the most effective oil spill preparedness program would be to pool industry resources, share information and develop oil spill cooperatives with volunteers from licensees of oil wells and pipelines.

For over 40 years the Cooperatives, now under the WCSS banner have operated without a single employee; from our Board of Directors, our Executive Sub-Committee, Cooperative Chairmen and Steering Committees to our initial spill response teams; we are truly a volunteer based organization. WCSS does have contracts with service providers to manage the day to day operations of the corporation, undertake Cooperative administration, maintain WCSS equipment and provide other services as required.

Although it is recognized that volunteer involvement in WCSS provides direct benefit to companies that participate by improving in-hose spill response capability, WCSS also recognizes the time commitment involved and overall benefit to the industry. Through the efforts and dedication of volunteers, the upstream petroleum industry has been able to maintain a world class, cost effective spill preparedness program. We are grateful to the following organizations and member companies for providing volunteers:

Access Pipeline	Devon Canada	Pembina Pipeline Corp.
Advantage Oil and Gas	Enbridge PPL Inc	Pengrowth Corp.
AltaGas Ltd.	Encana Corp.	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
Apache Canada Corp.	Enerplus Corp.	Petrobakken Energy
ARC Resources	Fairborne Energy	Plains Midstream Canada
Atco Midstream	Flint Hills Resources	Secure Energy
Bell Energy	Gibson Energy Ltd	Shell Canada
Bonavista Petroleum	Harvest Operations Corp.	Sinopec Daylight
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	Husky Energy	Spectra Energy
Cenovus Energy	Imperial Oil	Suncor Energy
Chinook Energy Inc.	Interpipeline Fund	Syncrude Canada
Compton Petroleum	Keyera Energy	Talisman Energy
Conoco Phillips Canada	Kinder Morgan Canada Inc.	Taq North
Crescent Point Energy	Legacy Oil and Gas	Terroco Industries
Dalpe Petroleum	Meg Energy	Tervita Corp.
Dejour Energy	Newalta Corp.	Vermilion Energy Inc.
	Pace Oil and Gas	

WCSS also acknowledges the volunteers from non-member companies and provincial regulators that participate on our steering committees and initial spill response teams; many thanks.

1687833 Alberta Inc.

Absolute Safety

Alberta Environment Support
and Emergency Response
Team (ASERT)

B.C. Ministry of Environment

CEL Quality Services

Challand Excavating

Clean Harbours

Dick's Welding

ERCB

Flint Hills Resources

Karibu Industries

KMC Oilfield Maintenance

M&M Oilfield

Muzzy's Contracting

Predetor OF

Saskatchewan Ministry of

Economy

Slave Safety

SWAT

SW Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the relationship between WCSS and their members that pay annual membership fees?

- Licensees of wells, pipelines and facilities must be a member in good standing of WCSS Oil Spill Cooperative or have an approved plan registered with Provincial Regulators in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. WCSS is the most cost effective means of meeting this regulatory requirement.
- WCSS is a volunteer-based company with many member companies that provide volunteers at the field level to ensure the upstream petroleum industry is prepared to respond to oil spills.
- WCSS provides a number of services to its members including:
 - Provision of oil spill contingency plans for each of our 18 Cooperatives; these plans are supplemental to a company's corporate emergency response plan.
 - Access to oil spill initial spill response equipment, regional and specialized equipment.
 - Maintenance and insurance for oil spill equipment.
 - Access to training including annual Coop exercises, open registration courses and custom-designed courses for both members and non-member companies.
 - Communication programs and public awareness initiatives.
 - Quality assurance through our field improvement program.
 - Assistance with initial spill response.

As part of my dues to WCSS, will WCSS provide competent response personnel, including an incident commander to supervise containment and recovery operations if my company were to have a spill?

- WCSS is a spill preparedness organization, not a response contractor. It is the responsibility of the company that experiences the spill (responsible party) to have trained responders at their spill.
- WCSS typically provides spill response support to the responsible party if requested to do so, including:
 - Assistance with the identification of equipment and getting the equipment mobilized to a staging area.
 - Assistance finding certified boat operators when WCSS boats are being used.

- Provision of volunteer responders from other member companies for initial spill response only; it is important to recognize that these volunteers are not on stand-by.
- Assisting with the identification of subject matter experts and specialized resources.

Does WCSS have a list of competent consultants that is available to my company?

- WCSS will provide a list of certified boat operators and assist the responsible party with scheduling them for boat operations linked to the spill.
- WCSS maintains an internal resource list but does not publish the list for reasons linked to confidentiality and liability; member companies are advised to maintain their own list of spill contractors.
- WCSS will provide the names of subject matter experts during the initial spill response phase provided we obtain clearance to do so from those contacts in our resource list; however it is the member company's responsibility to determine if the contacts that we provide qualify for the work.

Our company has some experienced boat operators in our area; can they operate WCSS boats if we have a spill?

- They can operate WCSS boats only if they have Transport Canada's MED A3 certification and certification in the WCSS boat handling course plus re-certification every 3 years.

Once contacted and given the location of the spill, will the WCSS equipment custodian deliver the equipment to a staging area for us?

- The regional equipment custodians will assist you with transporting the equipment to your spill site; but in some cases the initial spill response units in the Cooperatives are maintained at member company sites and it will be your responsibility to have someone pick them up and deliver to your spill.
- Most of the smaller units can be towed by light-duty vehicles, and the hauling requirements can be found on our website and in your WCSS oil spill contingency manual.
- If you experience problems accessing equipment call our Operations Manager directly at 780 288-4114 for assistance.

Is it WCSS's responsibility to locate, document and maintain control points within the coop boundaries?

- WCSS maintains existing critical control points only in each Coop; we no longer attempt to maintain the approx. 1500 other control points that were previously identified.
- We recommend that companies assess their oil spill risks and identify access sites downstream from high-risk operations.
- If a company wishes to update a non-critical control point, please contact our Operations Manager for assistance.

How is standby maintenance and post incident equipment maintenance completed to ensure equipment readiness?

- The WCSS Operations Manager is responsible for all of our equipment and relies on each of the 18 Oil Spill Cooperatives for support for maintenance linked to the area's initial spill response units.
- WCSS has a maintenance program that includes spring and fall equipment checks and routine maintenance.
- During a spill the Operations Manager typically visits the spill site and identifies equipment issues and is involved in corrective action if appropriate; the authority to do this is written in the "Equipment Usage Agreement" which must be signed by the responsible party before it is released from WCSS.
- Following a spill the Operations Manager coordinates an assessment of the equipment and replacement of consumables and damaged equipment and the invoicing process to the responsible party.

As a member in good standing; do we pay a rental fee for the use of WCSS equipment?

- WCSS members in good standing do not pay rental fees for our equipment unless the equipment is required outside of our jurisdictional area (Alberta, NE British Columbia and Area 1 in Saskatchewan); if they do they are charged 1/3 of the rental rate that non-members pay.

How does WCSS provide training for its membership?

- WCSS coordinates a minimum of 1 exercise per year in each of our 18 Cooperatives; the type of exercise is linked to objectives in our 5 year training plan.
- If your company would like to have a specific type of training in your Coop area, bring a recommendation forward to the Coop Chairman.
- WCSS also offers open registration courses and contract training for individual member companies.

How do we know when the exercise will be held in the cooperative area where we have wells, pipeline and facilities?

- As of 2013, WCSS no longer attempts to track membership in each area for exercise notification purposes; it is the responsibility of the members to ensure that they have a representative(s) participate.
- The exercise schedule is posted on the WCSS website www.wcss.ab.ca, is outlined in our newsletters provided with your annual membership invoice, and is available through the Cooperatives.
- You can also register your contact information on our website and receive newsletters and other information.

If we find an illegal dumping of hydrocarbon waste material on our lease; does WCSS provide funding to clean it up under the WCSS spills of unknown origin program?

- WCSS only gets involved if the provincial regulator requests that we do so, and we have a cap on the amount of funding for spills of unknown origin.

- Typically we only get involved if the material dumped cannot be linked to a licensee's lease and/or access road; for the example provided in your question, the regulator would almost certainly hold your company responsible.

Lessons Learned

Because many of the lessons learned in our 2011 year end newsletter continued to surface we thought we would re-list them and add our top ten picks for 2012.

2011

1. The Incident Command System is effective; for training exercises as well as a spill response.
2. Building relationships with regulators and key stakeholders prior to a spill pays off.
3. Public consultation and communication can make you or break you at a spill.
4. Knowing access points on rivers downstream from facilities is critical.
5. When it comes to a spill response "get big quick"
6. Responders' innovation is a valuable spill response tool; keep your options open.
7. Having trained responders during a spill response is essential.
8. Getting directly involved in an oil spill cooperative pays off.
9. Keeping wildlife out of a spill is important; don't forget to utilize WCSS's equipment.
10. Plan for a worst case scenario; hopefully you will never have to go there.

2012

1. A successful response to a major incident hinges on multiple organizations working together in a coordinated way.
2. Although a high-level of training is required to operate air boats; they are an invaluable tool for spill response activities for many of the conditions that are encountered in our jurisdictional area.
3. The initial spill response team concept works; involvement from WCSS member companies in the initial spill response phase of a major 2012 spill in surface water proved to be extremely effective.
4. 4 or 5 trained responders with previous spill experience that have access to an adequate number of workers can achieve positive results.
5. Significant effort and expertise is required in the logistical section of ICS.
6. Certified boat operators are a critical component of a response team; finding operators for an extended period can be challenging.
7. In order to avoid charges for damaged equipment at a spill response, it is important to ensure that responders are maintaining the equipment and taking precautions to prevent unnecessary damage.
8. A combination of mechanical oil spill recovery and in-situ burning was used successfully at a 2012 oil spill in a wet area; the use of in-situ burning should be considered as one of the tools in your response tool box.
9. Locating an ideal containment and recovery site and deploying equipment effectively is a challenge for many companies.
10. The WCSS Awareness training program when delivered to individual companies will make a difference; we are finding that at the end of the training session field employees are confident in their ability to contain and recover oil in small watercourses.

2013 Exercise Schedule

Zone 1	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
P	1	OSCAR in Small River	June 19
Q	3	Spill Responder (classroom)	May 8
S	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	September 11
Zone 2	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
H	1	OSCAR in Small River	May 29
M	3	Spill Responder (classroom)	September 18
N	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	June 27
O	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	June 26
U	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	June 5
Zone 3	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
G	1	OSCAR in Small River	September 11
I/J	1	OSCAR in Small River	August 21
Zone 4	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
D	4b	Awareness Training - Sunken & Submerged	April 23
D	1	OSCAR in Small River	September 17
W	1	OSCAR in Small River	September 4
Zone 5	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
VR-1	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	March 6
VR-1	3	Spill Responder (classroom)	November 6
Y	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	September 25
Zone 6	Objective	Type of Exercise	Date
A	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	February 5
C (FSJ)	2	OSCAR in Large River, Lake or Ice Conditions	February 13
C (FN)	4	Awareness Training – Bell Holes & Trenches	May 1
T	3	Spill Responder (classroom)	September 18
E	1	OSCAR in Small River	June 12

Open Registration Training 2013

November 5: Spill Responder

November 6: Land Spill Response

November 7: Incident Commander at Oil Spills

All open registration courses take place at the Nisku Enform Training Centre.

Please contact *Shannon Jarrell* at (403) 516-8019 for information regarding customized in-house contract training.