

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable Meeting Summary as at 8 June 2015

Location: Hal Rogers Centre, Kamloops

Date: June 8, 2015, 9:00AM to 11:00AM

Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment (MOE)
Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority (IHA)
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar
Nicole Evanoff, Tkemlups te Secwepemc
Rob Maciak, KGHM Ajax
Allan Michener, City of Kamloops
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFCA)
Casey Neathway, First Nations Health Authority
Kate Parsons, KGHM Ajax
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Marc Solomon, City of Kamloops
Tracy Thomas, FBC
Stephanie Voysey, Lafarge Canada

Invited Organizations (either the date didn't work, or they weren't able to send someone)

CN Rail	Thompson Nicola Regional District
CP Rail	Thompson Rivers University, Science Dept.
New Gold	Tolko Industries Ltd.
School District 73	

Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council welcomed all. Nicole Evanoff acknowledged Secwepemc territory. Introductions were made around the room. Mike noted that the purpose of today's meeting was to explore the concept of creating an inclusive multi-stakeholder air quality committee or roundtable. Mike cautioned that there has to be a purpose and value to create a committee, if this initiative is to proceed.

Mike stated that many communities have multi-stakeholder air quality committees, including Edmonton, Kelowna, Williams Lake, Quesnel and Prince George.

Mike noted that the Fraser Basin Council is a non-profit society with 38 directors from the four orders of government (Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations) together with major economic sectors and civil society. FBC helps bring people together to find solutions to integrate economic, environmental and social issues — with a focus on healthy watersheds and water resources, climate change action and air quality, and sustainable, resilient communities. The Council's vision is social well-being, supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. See www.fraserbasin.bc.ca for more information.

What was proposed:

The concept that was circulated in advance of the meeting was as follows (in italics):

- *An air improvement roundtable that is science-based, inclusive that recognizes environmental, social/health, and economic perspectives with the following objectives:*
 - *Monitor implementation of the Kamloops Airshed Management Plan, and identify realistic air quality objectives to be achieved with timelines*

- *Coordinate and improve air quality monitoring (pooling of results, identifying data gaps, accessing new monitoring infrastructure)*
- *Education and awareness of air quality issues amongst the public and various audiences*
- *Identify and implement initiatives to improve air quality (e.g., woodstove exchange program, idling reduction efforts)*

The question was asked: is there value in creating a multi-stakeholder group? Should a group be formed to address air quality issues in the Kamloops airshed?

Feedback heard from all participants:

- Yes, there is value in creating a multi-stakeholder air quality group (unanimous), but not full agreement on the objectives as presented
- Education and awareness: was seen as the most critical need; greater opportunities for public education than relying on government agencies; educate on which order of government makes decisions on what issues/matters; correct misinformation; inform the public of what industry is doing
- Committee longevity: can be difficult to maintain; need someone to convene people; need a champion; maybe it's OK to let committees end if work completed
- Quantified targets and timelines for air quality parameters: some would like to see these to have measureable improvements in air quality; others cautioned that much is out of our control
- Monitoring: more monitoring does not equate with action on emissions
- Capacity: staff capacity at City, MOE will be limited in the short term; need support to convene groups and do the detailed work
- Funding: will be a challenge; neither City of Kamloops nor MOE has no funds available for this fiscal year at least; KGHM Ajax may fund but need a request; FBC can apply for funds; education funds are generally available
- In-kind support: IHA can provide a teleconference line; City can provide meeting space
- FBC to support: agreement for FBC to provide secretariat support, but funding is needed to continue beyond today's meeting

Next steps:

- Circulate meeting summary (request feedback from those in attendance; FYI for rest)
- Share contact info (Mike to seek permission of those not in attendance today)
- FBC and others to seek funding
- FBC to draft a "straw dog" terms of reference for review at next meeting
- FBC to seek date on next meeting – over summer, or by mid-Sept at latest

Next meeting agenda:

- Information sharing related to the draft objectives: what is in the City airshed plan; what is the current and future monitoring network; what initiatives are underway
- Draft terms of reference – review straw dog, fine tune purpose, goals, objectives

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