

# Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at November 1, 2018

**Location:** TRU Campus, Kamloops **Meeting Date:** October 29, 2018, 9:15AM to 12:05PM

## Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) (from 9:30AM)  
Glen Cheetham, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)  
Tiffany Cobb, Domtar  
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar  
Susan Lidster, TRU - Education  
Joesphine Howitt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)  
Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)  
Nicole MacCulloch, KGHM Ajax Mine  
Melissa McGarry, School District 73 (SD73)  
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFA)  
Casey Neathway, First Nations Health Authority  
Sam Numsen, New Gold (from 10:45AM)  
Raynell Ortega, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)

## 1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made around the room. The agenda was approved as presented. Regrets were noted from TRU Office of Sustainability and Environment (James, Jim, Aaron), and Greg Baytalan of Interior Health Authority. It was noted that Ralph and Sam would be late.

## 2. Previous Meeting Summaries

Meeting summary from July 18, 2018 was approved.

Old action items from the January 11, 2018 summary were reviewed. Most are on today's agenda; those not complete will be carried forward (see end of this summary):

- No movement on the industrial tax incentive bylaw that was supported by those present at the January meeting; elections underway at Tk'emlups te Secwepemc.
- TRU wood biomass system, there is interest in the plans and presentation material from June 2018; Glen noted the wood boiler bylaw needs to be addressed in collaboration with TRU
- Mike will distribute a summary from Aaron Wiebe of air quality sensing and low cost sensors, from a conference Aaron attended in California in 2017; numerous academic papers are available from Aaron, follow up with him or Mike
- Financial contributions have been received for fiscal year ending March 31, 2019 from Domtar, New Gold and City of Kamloops; discussions underway with TRU

## 3. City of Kamloops Airshed Management Plan

Josie Howitt gave a presentation on the current review of the [Kamloops Airshed Management Plan](#) which was adopted in 2012. Josie has consulted with City staff on the status of implementation of the 63 actions in the plan. Of the 30 finite actions, 47% complete, 33% in

progress, and 20% not yet commenced. 24 actions are continuous and ongoing, while 9 are out of the City's jurisdiction. Josie sought and recorded input from those present on actions deemed out of jurisdiction, including federal emission standards for trains, fuel standards and others. Next steps are to consult with Ralph Adams on air quality monitoring data and any gaps, draft a report for senior management review, and present to Council and publish the findings.

#### **4. Summer 2018 Air Quality Issues**

Ralph Adams led a presentation on PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and AQHI values since 1998, with a focus on 2018 data from summer wildfires. Overall, in 2018 smoke started later in the summer and the data show that it was not as bad as 2017.

The material Ralph presented can be found [here](#); scroll down to Presentations to KAQR, and then Presentations and Material from the October 29, 2018 meeting.

Ralph noted that there continues to be an increase in total reduced sulfur, and that he is continuing to investigate this. There have been odour issues associated with biosolids storage over the summer.

Ralph requests that the following message go out to people in your network:

- If “unpleasant, unusual” odours are noticed outdoors, send time, date and location noticed (be as specific as possible), describe the odour, and its intensity
- Email [ralph.adams@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ralph.adams@gov.bc.ca)
- Data is being compiled for purpose of understanding of the source of the odour
- Can report back historically (be as specific as possible), or current/future

Ralph expressed concern with the misinformation being spread by Dr. Michael Mehta of TRU on social media regarding air quality, accusations against Domtar, and accusations of systemic racism by not having sufficient air quality monitoring in rural Indigenous communities. Ralph's concern is that TRU is a participant on the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable and that Dr. Mehta's social media profiles associate him with TRU.

#### **5. Educational Resources and SD73 Idling Policies**

Gina Morris displayed her community education material, including fact sheets, a display board that her daughter created to raise awareness of vehicle idling, and other educational pamphlets informing people about the size of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in comparison to a human hair, and the sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Kamloops.

Melissa noted that SD 73 is currently using GPS enabled software to collect data on idling activities of their fleet. This is part of the school districts five-year strategic plan, ensure the sustainable use of resources. Managers are reviewing that information through monthly reports. No current policy is in place. It was noted that other than school buses, some vehicles need to idle for various reasons including shelter during winter months or to power tools. Discussion also ensued about anti-idling signage at school drop off/pick up zones, aimed at parents and also before/after school buses. Different schools have different signs; some are through City of Kamloops anti idling campaigns and some are from the school district.

## 6. Information Sharing

*City of Kamloops (Sustainability)* - hoping to hear back about their application to the Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program funding application soon. They are budgeting for only 5 wood to wood exchanges; rest would be wood to a cleaner option exchange. New for 2019, Council has committed some funds for a woodstove buyback program. At the recent Home Show earlier this month, staff spoke to approximately 120 residents about wood burning, with information and moisture meters handed out. The City is kicking off its Community Energy and Emissions Planning process today; will use KAQR as sounding board in the future.

*City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)* - Emily reported that she continues to receive calls from the public about air quality concerns; she tries to address residents' concerns and also refers people to the Roundtable's website with presentations, [www.bcairquality.ca](http://www.bcairquality.ca), and the Province's environmental complaints email address ([environmentalcomplaints@gov.bc.ca](mailto:environmentalcomplaints@gov.bc.ca)).

*KGHM Ajax Mine* - Nicole reported that there is no official direction for the project from the company.

*New Gold* - Sam reported that the annual full scale crisis drill occurred on site Oct 16 during regular hours, with RCMP and BC Wildfire Service participating. The drill activated the emergency operations centre and incident command on site. They will debrief on the drill in the coming weeks. Preparing for end of year systems audits; some internal, some external, some peer. Towards Sustainable Mining certification is currently in place, it is being externally verified in November. Launching a community advisory panel for New Gold, aiming to kick off in January.

*First Nations Health Authority* - 2018 was the second wildfire season where FNHA has given out room-sized HEPA filters to those at risk (youth, elderly, sick). Casey wondered if partisol monitoring equipment is still usable, can they be deployed in remote areas. November is take action on Radon month, FNHA does testing and outreach. [BC Lung Annual Radon Workshop](#) is coming up November 8 in Burnaby. Casey agreed that there would be value in working with Ralph and MOECCS to develop a "Burn It Smart" workshop specifically for First Nations communities?

*TRU (Education)* - Susan informed participants that she coordinates the "Mind the Gap" program, which matches TRU faculty with teachers with up to \$2000 in grant funding to help close the gaps between teachers, desired curriculum material and faculty. Susan noted there are also opportunities to bring other actors (industry, interest groups) onto teams to develop material; Glen suggested this would be a good opportunity as well for City staff that deliver education content in the school system. It was generally agreed this is an opportunity with the diverse perspectives at the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable. Susan also questioned whether there is information about health impacts on people working outdoors during periods of high PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, and impacts on indoor air quality.

*Domtar* - Kristin noted that Domtar accepts calls regarding odours 24/7/365, with a live human to talk to, call 250-434-6000. Where, what like, patterns, describe; Kristin will share the data collected to date with Ralph. City people can answer questions about Domtar related complaints, or direct complaints to Domtar. It is most helpful when calls received in a timely manner so that staff can investigate the issue. Domtar did their annual full scale emergency

response drills last week involving Kamloops Fire & Rescue, complete with alarms and steam whistles. Annual re-registration for ISO 140001 underway in November.

MOECCS - Ralph reported that there is concern that some communities going into the red zone (federal objectives); Kamloops is not one of those communities. Ralph will be retiring by January 2020 at the latest and possibly sooner; his replacement will be hired soon.

Tk'emlups te Secwepemc - Raynell noted that burning season will end October 31; their community energy plan being developed and that he will converse with City of Kamloops on theirs; that some controlled burns on E. Shuswap Road and near the subdivision are planned for spring 2019; and that the transit system up and running.

## 7. Next Steps

Future meeting dates and draft agendas

- **Mid-February.** Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance.
  - Educational resources - existing curriculum material; Kamloops Moms for Clean Air; what exists as a teacher resource in SD73; what are the gaps; identify connections; utilize TRU grants
  - Levoglucosan - Ralph Adams
- **Spring/summer.** Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance.
  - New Gold/New Afton tour (underground), presentation

It was agreed that due to ongoing construction, pay parking requirements, that future meetings would be held at either Henry Grube Education Centre or a City of Kamloops facility with ample and free parking.

### List of Action Items

Task	Who's responsible	Timing
Follow up with Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and City of Kamloops on next steps for <b>industrial tax incentive bylaw</b> ; Glen suggested to connect with him and other city staff as well before any further action is taken	Mike	Before next meeting
Follow up with Kristin if you need a supply of <b>wood ash</b>	Everyone	Ongoing
Share plans for the proposed <b>wood biomass system</b> at TRU, including fibre requirements, air quality emissions, and more	Jim Gudjonson or Aaron Wiebe	At future meetings
Follow up with Glen Cheetham at City regarding public engagement, wood boiler bylaw issue	Jim, Aaron	Ongoing
<b>Summary of California conference</b> from Aaron Wiebe - follow up with Mike Simpson if you want academic papers	Mike	ASAP
Apply for <b>grants</b> (if needed)	Gina	As needed, when suitable grants are identified
<b>Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate</b> between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing