

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at Dec 9, 2016

Location: TRU Campus, Kamloops

Meeting Date: Dec 5, 2016, 1:05PM to 3:55PM

Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment
Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority
Glen Cheetham, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar
Korah Dewalt-Gagnon, New Gold
Todd Goodsell, KGHM Ajax
Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority
James Gordon, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment
Ted Howe, TRU - Education (to 3:00PM)
Josephine Howitt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)
Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)
Lisa Marinic, New Gold
Travis Marr, Stkemlupsemc te Secwepemc (SSN) (to 3:00PM)
Michael Mehta, Thompson Rivers University (guest)
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFCA)
Colin O'Leary, Venture Kamloops (guest)
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Travis Marr acknowledged Secwepemc territory, and introductions were made around the room. The agenda was approved as presented.

2. September 23, 2016 Meeting Summary

The September 23 meeting summary was approved. One action was to invite Colin O'Leary from Venture Kamloops to explain their interest in joining the Roundtable. Colin explained that their interest is to facilitate the flow of information and connections, and that he is working on an industrial tax credit to enable improvements to the airshed. Later in the meeting, it was agreed to have Venture Kamloops join the Roundtable.

3. Domtar's Operations

Kristin Dangelmaier gave an overview of Domtar's operations, the products they produce, the pulping process, their history in Kamloops, and the changes to their air emissions permit and emissions levels since 2008. Kristin's presentation is posted [here](#).

Ralph Adams distributed and described the content of a handout on total reduced sulphur gasses showing the changes in TRS over the decades at different monitoring locations in Kamloops, and in comparison to other BC cities with pulp mills. See report [here](#).

4. Purple Air Network of Air Quality Monitoring

Professor Michael Mehta, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at TRU, gave a presentation on the impacts of wood smoke, the distribution of wood smoke issues and PM2.5 in rural areas, some criticism of woodstove exchange programs, and the use of small, inexpensive devices to monitor air quality in various locations - the “purple air network.” There are currently 8 sensors around the Kamloops area to monitor PM2.5. See www.purpleair.org and Michael’s presentation is posted [here](#).

Cautions raised from Roundtable members were that these small, inexpensive devices cannot and should not replace high-quality standard instruments, and can’t be relied upon for regulatory matters; concerns with real-time vs. 24hr averages; they are affected by outdoor dust, humidity and temperatures lower than -10C; and may have a limited lifespan of 1 year. However, as a tool to increase the number of monitoring locations with *relative* data, they can be of use. The caution here is not to encourage people to panic with short-term, real-time readings and to keep the limitations of the technology in perspective. Ralph noted that four of these sensors are currently being tested in northern BC.

5. Thompson Rivers University and School District 73 Collaboration

Ted Howe reported that TRU Education, TRU Computing Sciences, TRU Geography and Environmental Sciences (Michael Mehta) and School District 73 are exploring the expansion of purple air network monitors to schools in SD73, and enabling students to be engaged in monitoring and analyzing data. In addition, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air have some curriculum material to utilize, and this fits in with City of Kamloops sustainability initiatives.

6. Information Sharing Roundtable

There was limited time for participants to share anything relevant to the purpose of the roundtable. A very brief highlight is captured below:

- Josie reported that project-based learning is advancing, she has met with four schools and is working with the City’s communications department
- Colin explained the status of the industrial tax credit and the challenges he has faced trying to advance it. The proposed industrial tax credit is a mechanism under the Community Charter to defer tax increases in exchange for tangible projects that improve the airshed (agreed to be vague and not quantifiable) as a broad goal in the City’s Airshed Management Plan
- Ralph distributed a handout on 1 year results of particulate matter monitoring at the Upper Aberdeen monitoring station, it is posted [here](#)

7. Clean Air Day Plans for 2017

Clean Air Day will be Wed June 7, 2017. Some early thoughts about outreach opportunities:

- The City will be having a Commuter Challenge that week, right after Bike to Work Week (last week of May)
- BC Sustainable Energy Network is having a clean air initiative on Earth Day, April 22
- City of Kamloops in past years has had a display at the Downtown Farmers’ Market, which takes place on Wednesdays

No other firm commitments at this point for Clean Air Day.

8. Financial Contributions for 2017/18

Mike reported that for the current fiscal year (ending March 31, 2017), that \$8236.53 will be spent by the end of December, with a remaining balance of \$1763.47 from the \$10 000 contribution. Mike reported that for the current level of activity (3-4 meetings per year, some media outreach, website maintenance) that \$10 000/year is sufficient.

If roundtable members see value in this continuing, funding commitments for the year beginning April 1, 2017 should be made by early April, if not sooner.

9. Next Steps

ACTIONS:

- All members to share information about the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable with their constituents/memberships/colleagues
- Josie and/or Ted will follow up with School District 73 about filling their vacant position on the roundtable
- Mike to have approved meeting summaries and today's presentations posted on web
- Participants can pay for their TRU parking online, or download an app from www.paybyphone.com (note parking lot H, and possibly others, is their location 1948)
- Roundtable members to consider funding for 2017/18 and advise Mike Simpson by early April 2017, if not sooner

Next Meeting Date

- Tentatively scheduled for **April 2017**. Mike to seek date with a doodle poll in March.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Meeting summary approvals - Dec 5, 2016
- Follow up on Purple Air Network, connections to our objective about air quality data gaps, and TRU-SD73 collaboration
- Financial contributions for 2017/18
- Possible presentation on slash pile burning, current regulations, evolving research and economics on alternative approaches
- Clean Air Day 2017 plans
- Education about curing wood in spring, not fall
- Information sharing roundtable (minimum 30min)

Future presentation topics to arrange:

- Basic presentation by Ralph and Greg on regulations, hazards and initiatives for air quality from MOE and Interior Health Authority
- Levoglucosan levels, Sarah Henderson research for Health Canada