

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at January 16, 2018

Location: TRU Campus, Kamloops **Meeting Date:** January 11, 2018, 9:10AM to 12:00PM

Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (from 10:10AM)
Nicola Banton, KGHM Ajax (to 11:45AM)
Tiffany Cobb, Domtar
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar
Jim Gudjonson, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment (to 10:45AM)
Chris Higgins, New Gold
Ted Howe, TRU - Education (to 10:45AM)
Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services) (to 11:30AM)
Nicole MacCulloch, KGHM Ajax
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFCA)
Casey Neathway, First Nations Health Authority
Sam Numsen, New Gold
Colin O'Leary, O'Leary and Associates - guest speaker (10:00AM to 10:45AM, by phone)
Laura Sampliner, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)
Aaron Wiebe, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment

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, but topics shifted around to accommodate people's availability. Note - quorum was not achieved, so decisions need to be followed up with a First Nations representative, or deferred to the next meeting.

2. Information Sharing Roundtable

The following was shared:

- Laura reported that the **City of Kamloops** woodstove exchange program is almost fully subscribed already, with the majority interested in woodstove to natural gas upgrades. A community idling bylaw is being initiated, with staff compiling information on best practices for Council to consider. In the information gathering stage for conducting a 5 year review of the City's airshed management plan.
- Nicola reported that following the provincial government's decision to not issue an environmental certificate for **KGHM Ajax Mine**, there is no final decision from the company on next steps. The federal government has indicated they wouldn't support the project, but have not yet issued a formal decision. Layoffs have begun. There are responsibilities with the site, environmental services and responsibilities will be maintained. This will be Nicola's last meeting, however it was agreed by those present that there is benefit in Nicole remaining part of the roundtable.
- Kristin noted that the key improvement planned for **Domtar** in 2018 is new pollution control equipment on the bleach plant, to scrub emissions. Non-capital improvements made in 2017 were on control systems to reduce, but not eliminate odours. Domtar will host the next meeting and there will be a field tour in conjunction.

- Jim reported that **Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Sustainability Office** is continuing to reduce fleet emissions with 3 electric vehicles and 2 hybrids in the fleet, for staff and faculty to use instead of reimbursing mileage costs. New campus expansions are using electric heat instead of gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. Still deciding on wood biomass boiler system for on-campus, looking at 5 other campuses around BC with them. Addressed odour issues with composting systems on campus with a custom-built filter. Kristin noted that Domtar produces a surplus of wood ash, which has a large component of activated carbon - they are doing a trial with the City on biosolids applications to control odour - but Kristin offered surplus wood ash to any partner who could use it.
- Ted reported that **TRU Computer Sciences** department is examining the Purple Air Network sensors and building an improved prototype. At Ted's **Faculty of Education** he has a teacher assistant who has developed lesson plans on air quality, to be presented at a conference in February before being presented here (Kristin suggested this roundtable could provide valuable feedback on content). Ted has accessed MITACS funding for an international student (candidates are from Brazil and India) and will likely be here for 3 months commencing in spring 2018.
- Emily reported that **City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)** will provide input to the review of the airshed management plan, and that the City fleet has electric vehicles, hybrids and a system to address idling, speeding and provide feedback to users and periodic reports.
- Gina reported that **Kamloops Moms for Clean Air** are looking at two projects in the Comox Valley focused on air quality and woodstove use, and air quality health warnings for children to restrict outdoor activity. She mentioned that the Insurance Bureau of BC (ICBC) recently identified an opt-in program using technology to monitor how their car is being driven, to reduce insurance premiums through idling reductions.
- Aaron reported that he attended a conference in California last fall on behalf of **TRU Sustainability Office** on technology for air quality measurements and monitoring. Some of the highlights Aaron shared were: new low-cost sensors for monitoring air quality; methane capture technology for landfills (City of Kamloops may be interested); and allergen detection networks that use optical measurements to provide real-time species allergen reports. Aaron will prepare a summary report, and send to Mike with some key papers for distribution to roundtable members.
- Chris reported that operations are steady at **New Gold**, they are taking a different approach to tailings management to address dust using rock waste this year. They will have a presentation in the near future on idling reduction efforts. They have just completed registration for the 2015 standard of ISO 140001 certification.
- Ralph reported that the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** will be shutting down the Upper Aberdeen air quality monitoring station, primarily since it is unlikely that the KGHM Ajax Mine will proceed and 2 years of baseline data has been collected, and also due to resource and capacity constraints.
- Casey reported that the **First Nations Health Authority** are currently focusing on indoor air quality, healthy homes, radon detection and distributing HEPA filters to high-risk areas.

3. City of Kamloops Industrial Tax Incentive

Colin O'Leary, economic development consultant, provided background on and current status of an industrial tax incentive bylaw that he initiated during his time at Venture Kamloops.

The basic premise of the industrial tax incentive bylaw is to encourage industry to make investments that reduce environmental impacts (air, water, waste) but that don't provide a financial disincentive by increasing taxes. It was acknowledged by those present that it's a modest financial incentive that encourages investments that have beneficial environmental outcomes. This doesn't shift taxes onto other sectors, but rather delays collection of taxes for 10 years. The City is enabled to do this through the Community Charter. Eligible sectors include heavy and medium industry. The current draft bylaw could be modified to be zoning-specific, and enable industrial zoning for parcels of land with specific activity (i.e., wood biomass boiler at TRU).

Colin noted that the bylaw is drafted, provisions in the City's five year financial plan are in place, and that city staff in development and finance as well as councilors through individual discussions are supportive. Next steps are for the City to advertise public notice, to be adopted by City Council, and then a program established.

There was no objection by those present (note quorum was not met) of endorsing this initiative. Next steps discussed include but are not limited to the following: promote a similar incentive by Tk'emlups te Secwepemc; express our support of this to one or more City councilors to encourage them to champion it; find creative ways to enable this for CP or CN Rail to promote less idling of trains; credit Colin for initiating this.

4. October 5, 2017 Meeting Summary and Further Wildfire Season Debrief

The previous meeting summary was approved by those present (note quorum was not met).

Ralph noted that there are changes underway to the various air quality tools and communications approaches after the 2017 wildfire season, as a result of meetings between health and environment agencies in November. A new version of the air quality health index (AQHI) will have less of a time delay between concentrations of PM2.5 and AQHI values. Ralph also noted that a doctoral student is embarking on research with Sarah Henderson of the BC Centre for Disease Control to quantify health impacts of air quality and improve messaging to the public about risk.

A few comments were made in relation to the Purple Air Network and Dr. Michael Mehta:

- The Purple Air Network and its air quality measurements have been used to assign blame in social media to Domtar
- Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable staff were threatened with a lawsuit for promoting a woodstove exchange program
- A school was evacuated due to erroneous interpretation or reliance on Purple Air Network measurements
- Overall, building on our [statement](#) finalized in October, the risk is if the sensors are implemented or used in ways beyond their intended use and limitations

5. Next Steps

Activities or Initiatives for 2018

- City of Kamloops will host Green Living Expo for the third year in a row, Saturday April 28 at Sandman Centre - booth space will be available
- Domtar usually holds an event during Earth Week (third week of April)

Financial Status (FBC fiscal year ends March 31)

- Mike reported that for the current fiscal year there is \$8000 contributed from KGHM Ajax, TRU and City of Kamloops. On track to utilize all funds, or have very small surplus on March 31, which can be deferred to 2018/19.
- Will want to confirm by April which organizations can contribute for 2018/19. \$8000 per year supports 3 meetings/year (spring, fall, winter) and website maintenance.

Next Meeting Date

- Tentatively scheduled for **late May or early June 2018** at Domtar, with a tour. Mike to seek date in conjunction with Kristin and Domtar tour by early May.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Highlights of Domtar pollution control improvements
- Possible presentation*
- Information sharing roundtable (minimum 30min)

*Future presentation topics to arrange:

- City of Kamloops Airshed Management Plan - 5 year review of progress to date (TBD)
- Ted Howe - K-12 curriculum on air quality
- New Gold - idling reduction achievements to date
- Levoglucosan levels, Sarah Henderson research for Health Canada
- UBC - wood biomass boilers and air quality emissions

The following upcoming events were noted:

- BC Lung Annual Air Quality and Health Workshop, Feb 5 in Vancouver - info [here](#)

List of Action Items

Task	Who's responsible	Timing
Follow up with Colin O'Leary on next steps for industrial tax incentive bylaw	Mike	By late March
Coordinate on next meeting and tour at Domtar, post-shutdown	Mike, Kristin	By early May
Follow up with Kristin if you need a supply of wood ash	Everyone	Ongoing
Coordinate with UBC person to make a future presentation on wood biomass systems and air quality emissions, and share with Mike	Jim Gudjonson or Aaron Wiebe	By next meeting
Share draft curriculum for feedback from Kristin, other roundtable members	Ted	Before curriculum is finalized
Share a summary of California conference and key papers with Mike for distribution	Aaron	Before next meeting
Consider financial contributions for 2018/19 to keep this roundtable functioning	Everyone	By early April
Apply for grants (if needed)	Gina	As needed, when suitable grants are identified
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing