

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at February 1, 2022

Location: Online meeting via Zoom

Meeting Date: January 26, 2022, 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Present

Alex Bursac, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)
Glen Cheetham, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services) (from 11:30)
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar
Jaimi Garbutt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services)
James Gordon, Thompson Rivers University (Office of Sustainability and Environment)
Gavin King, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Wayne Mayall, Lafarge-Holcim
Melissa McGarry, School District 73
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air
Patrick O'Brien, New Gold
Erik Prytula, T'keklups te Secwepemc
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)
John ter Borg, T'keklups te Secwepemc (11:00 to 11:30)
Robert Wielgoz, Thompson Rivers University (Education)

Guests

Dr. Naoko Ellis, University of British Columbia (11:00 to 11:30)
Kyra Laverdiere, University of British Columbia (11:00 to 11:30)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Previous Meeting Summaries

The meeting summary from October 5, 2021 was approved. Old action items from the previous meeting summary were reviewed (see Action Items at end of this meeting summary), notably:

- Fiona emailed Mike the following before the meeting about her understanding of Purple Air monitors installed on First Nations reserves, participating communities have agreed to the information being public, and that the UNBC project is separate but FNHA can access the data via the UNBC website

3. Information Sharing

MOECCS – Gavin provided a presentation on draft air quality data from 2021, the values are not quality-controlled therefore the presentation cannot be shared. Key highlights included the following: gaseous contaminants are all well below objective levels; particulate matter was very bad due to wildfire smoke in 2021 but removing wildfire smoke values are within the objectives. He noted that total reduced

sulphur and sulphur dioxide monitoring equipment is being replaced soon. Final, QC'd data will be presented at the spring meeting.

City of Kamloops – Alex noted there was no update from Environmental Services, other than to note they've taken steps to prevent large landfill fires. Jaimi noted that the City was successful in obtaining woodstove exchange program funding for 2022. They are planning to do 60 exchanges. There will be more focus on electric and heat pumps. The rebate amounts have increased from \$800 to \$1200 for heat pumps and 50% of the appliance up to \$700 for an electric insert. They will also be doing exchanges for outdoor wood boilers if there are any in the community.

Domtar – Kristin reported that the Competition Bureau of Canada, in reviewing the sale of all Domtar operations to Paper Excellence, required that the Kamloops operation be excluded from the sale. Therefore Paper Excellence is currently in the process of selling the Kamloops operation, this should be finalized with a new owner by end of March 2022. Despite this uncertainty, a conveyor is being installed in March to deliver fibre from River City Fibre to the pulp mill, this eliminates transporting fibre by truck.

Thompson Rivers University – Building on [Warren Asuchak's presentation to the KAQR in May 2021](#), James noted that the low carbon district energy system by Creative Energy is proceeding and it will reduce emissions by 95% by 2030. Robert had nothing formal to report from Education, but that he's excited by the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities for including air quality in curriculum material and teacher candidates' work.

New Gold – Patrick noted that he's doing lots of reporting at this time of the year, and preparing two permit amendments for their C zone and an amended tailings facility.

Lafarge Holcim – Wayne noted that the Kamloops plant is currently used as a grinding facility for an environmentally friendly replacement for fly ash. The company has also launched an anti-idling initiative and uses rail instead of trucks where possible.

Kamloops Moms for Clean Air – Gina noted that much education work is on hold due to COVID. She asked about forestry practices around slash burning, impact on air quality. Many commented that this is a big topic worthy of a fuller discussion, with economic reasons for why things are done they way they are, and implications for air quality and carbon mitigation if we figure out a better way.

4. Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage

Dr. Naoko Ellis, Associate Director, Clean Energy and professor of chemical engineering and Kyra Laverdiere, Senior Manager Research Partnerships, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of British Columbia spoke about their work leading up to a workshop on March 22, 2022.

UBC's Clean Energy Research Centre is working in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada and BC's Climate Action Secretariat, to engage cross-sectoral stakeholders in an upcoming visioning workshop to help guide and prioritize activities focused on:

- accelerating suitable technologies for CO2 capture, based on industry type, location and expected flue gas parameters
- mapping prospective sequestration sites to CO2 sources and transportation networks across BC
- designing cost-optimal CO2 transportation networks, including ship, rail, road transportation, and identifying critical infrastructure needs, such as pipelines

- examining the efficacy of existing and potential policy levers as they relate to technical implementation

See presentation file named *KAQR - BC CCUS Workshop.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary (to be posted at www.kamloopsairquality.ca)

5. Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable Business

Mike suggested that it's worthwhile for groups to periodically step back and assess how they're functioning and what they're accomplishing compared to what was initially set out. He briefly reviewed the history of this roundtable and the purpose and objectives in the [terms of reference](#).

Reflections from those present were as follows (non-attributed):

- Value in having a two-way exchange of information
- Helps identify barriers and challenges, how to address them
- Learning lots as an individual
- Good reminder of the post-secondary research component in the objectives
- Networking and relationship building across different sectors and governments is good
- Could see air quality combined in a climate action committee
- Other air quality roundtables really focus on education

Mike's observations are that in general, everything is connected – when we talk air quality, we're broaching into carbon mitigation when we talk emissions reductions and wildfire risk reduction as we did in October 2021. We've also broached topics of radon and health impacts of radon over the years.

6. Next Steps

Future KAQR meeting dates and draft agendas

- **Spring 2022** – Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance
 - Follow up on evaluation of KAQR, are there any changes needed, does it get amalgamated into another committee

Future presentation opportunities

- Shelter in place concept, clean air refuges for Kamloops (evacuation, residents at risk)
- New Gold presentation on air quality
- TRU research chair in Predictive Services, Emergency Management and Fire Science
- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency?

Future field tour opportunities (when able to):

- Air station – federal station downtown
- City – landfill, sewage treatment plant (second choice)
- Stations being built at MOECCS – look at before shipped out
- Tolko – gasifier; veneer slicer; driers; presses; new cyclo-filter
- Pellet plant at Lavington (longer drive)
- SD73 Electric school bus

List of Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Education Subcommittee tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up on action items from May 21, 2019 summary ▪ Gina, Ralph and Kristin to prepare a general presentation on air quality for a layperson audience ▪ Gina to review curriculum material as her time, capacity and interest allows ▪ Connect with TRU's Eureka (summer science camp) ▪ Connect with Big Little Science Centre, about including information on air quality aimed at various audiences 	Mike, Gina, Ralph, Melissa, Jim, Kristin, Jaimi Garbutt, Rob Wielgoz	Ongoing
Ask Kristin (Domtar) if you need a supply of wood ash	Everyone	Ongoing
Follow up with Jaimi if you want stickers/info on idling reduction	Jaimi	Ongoing
Apply for grants (if needed)	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing