

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Draft Meeting Summary as at March 6, 2020

Location: Henry Grube Education Centre, Kamloops

Meeting Date: January 28, 2020, 9:10AM to 12:00PM

Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Sherry Adjenim-Boateng, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services)

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority

Alex Bursac, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)

Tiffany Cobb, Domtar

Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority

Gavin King, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air

Sam Numsen, New Gold

Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)

Danielle Sparks, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)

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.

Note that quorum was not met without First Nations present.

2. Previous Meeting Summaries

The meeting summary from September 23, 2019 was approved by those present (see note above about quorum).

Old action items from the previous meeting summary were reviewed. Many are on today's agenda; those complete have been removed; those not complete will be carried forward (see end of this summary):

- Industrial tax incentive bylaw - Mike suggested that since this was presented by Colin O'Leary at the January 11, 2018 meeting, the initiative has been delayed to seek support from T'kemlups te Secwepemc (TtS) as there was an interest in having similar initiatives in place as City of Kamloops. Without movement from TtS on this, it was agreed to bring this initiative forward again. Mike will circulate the concept with this meeting summary for new KAQR members to review it, and follow up with Glen Cheetham about next steps. See Appendix 1 for an excerpt from the January 11, 2018 meeting summary about this topic.
- Gina looked into the National Pollutant Release Inventory for what was reported from Pounder Emulsions on the CN railway right of way adjacent to the TtS Mount Paul industrial park. Nothing was reported for the Kamloops operation. She phoned the help number, no information provided yet. There could be a minimum reporting threshold that they don't meet.

3. 2019 Air Quality Statistics

Gavin reviewed the highlights of the 2019 air quality statistics (summary will be posted on www.kamloopsairquality.ca under the resources tab once it is finalized). Key points made were that PM_{2.5} is the main air quality parameter of concern, and with the effects of wildfire smoke removed, there trend is flat for PM_{2.5} in the Kamloops airshed - it's not getting worse.

The Federal CAAQ Objectives for PM_{2.5} will decrease this year, i.e. become more stringent. The annual average objective will decrease from 10 to 8.8 µg/m³. Based on the current values and trends, Kamloops will meet the new objectives.

Total reduced sulphur (TRS) (or odorous reduced sulfur gases, ORSG) do not have health effects at the concentrations observed in Kamloops. However, they result in an objectionable odour which is associated with pulp mills, sewage treatment plants and some natural processes. In Kamloops there was an increase in levels in 2017 and 2018. Ralph noted that no source could be determined; Tiffany noted a research paper that associated high sulphur levels following the Fort McMurray wildfire in 2016.

Peter Jackson of University of Northern British Columbia is conducting research into the effectiveness of low cost air quality monitors, such as the ones used in the [Purple Air Network](#). The [KAQR statement on purple air network](#) from October 2017 is still relevant. Ralph suggested that if people do view the purple air network information, to not refer to the 10 minute readings, change the options to 1 hour average from the default and ignore the health messaging.

4. Education Subcommittee Update

Melissa followed up with SD73 staff regarding moving the education subcommittee's ideas and suggestions forward, the following was what she reported in an email on Nov 20, 2019:

First step is any outside website or resources is vetted for accuracy and researched for origin. Next any group wanting to provide curriculum would have to review and submit a proposal. Below is the link to the Ministry of Education new curriculum. If you take a look through sciences the topic are selected and after reviewing K-6 I did not see any topics regarding air quality. There may be some in the older grades. You would have to establish learning objectives and then see where it fits into the curriculum. Another consideration after reviewing the curriculum would be to ensure it is inquiry based learning, and follows first people principles.

If this is something the group is still interested in, one suggestion was to hire a teacher and have them research curriculum, find a placement and create the resources. <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science>

Gina is a teacher, and will look into curriculum binders and help move this forward, but her time and capacity is limited as a volunteer.

After some discussion, it was suggested that our best approach might be through educational material at the Big Little Science Centre (BLSC), since school groups visit there as well as youth and others based on their own interest. Ralph and Gina will connect with BLSC about

developing and hosting information on air quality, and engage with Jaimi Garbutt from City of Kamloops who may have some connections with BLSC already.

5. Information Sharing

Interior Health Authority - Mild weather is here, and it's a toss-up as to whether Golden or Vernon will be the first 2020 Dust Air Quality Advisory. Vernon was heading in the direction of obtaining less dusty road grit, but this got sidetracked. MoE has a 2005 Road Grit Best Practices Guidance document, yet unfortunately it's not always followed. Prince George is a good example of achieving good air quality through selecting better in-City road grit. Ralph indicated that in Kamloops the main source is South Thompson River bed exposure and wind, not road grit, and that PM10 sensors in Kamloops are shut down. BC Environmental Assessment Office is having a 1-day Workshop Feb. 11 & 12 on new EAO processes on referrals. IHA assisted Australia with current wildfires and smoke issues. In 2019 Greg Neilson from National Research Council of Canada (NRC) set up monitors in and outside the Kamloops and Kelowna hospital, but there was limited smoke, however he did get decent background data, don't know if funding for 2020. Paul Willis and crew from Mainstreams in the Kootenays was working on setting up a 2019 monitoring project to determine before and after of changing filters, before and after fires in effort to establish a clean air refuge. Communication is occurring with NRC and Mainstreams on possibly doing something in 2020. Clean air refuge (e.g., a mall or public building) vs. clean air shelter (for people to reside 24 hours a day with food, beds, etc.) was discussed. Summer 2019, IHA had massive amount of filters ready to go for hospitals, upgrade HVAC to higher rated MERV filters. Through the assistance of Dr. Sarah Henderson and others we are hoping to have a simple communication piece on steps to evaluate and upgrade heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, well before the fire season so as to be ready. Material already exists on portable air cleaners for isolating a room in a house.

MOECCS - Gavin King is the new Air Quality Meteorologist in Kamloops, covering Thompson and Cariboo. Ralph is retiring in late February, but is interested in staying involved in citizen science and public education initiatives, but not regularly attending KAQR meetings. Ralph and Gavin are busy with emissions permits and applications. General shift in their workload to permitting instead of stewardship. The local technician Steve who maintains the federal monitoring station (among other tasks) is retiring this year.

Kamloops Moms for Clean Air - Gina continues with idling reduction efforts, and they have been involved with Mining Watch Canada and others in mining reform regarding ease of staking a claim and proximity of mine development close to communities. Represented KMFA at a transboundary meeting where there's concerns from USA.

New Gold - Sam reported that their environment team is working on annual reporting. They are working on implementing new and updated frameworks under the [Towards Sustainable Mining](#) initiative, a series of frameworks involving energy and greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, tailings management, water stewardship, indigenous and community relationships and others. They participated in a Post-Verification Review in Oct. 2019 on their latest externally verified results. A report will be out after March. They are working on a tool to enable people to take a virtual tour of their operation, in addition to in-person tours. Hope to roll out soon. A Feedback Group was struck and first met in July 2019. Mines are required to have a closure plan to address biophysical aspects, but there is also a "social closure" aspect. While this does not require a plan, New Gold is developing a social closure plan to

look at the potential impacts of future closure on employees, vendors, Indigenous partners, and identify mitigation options and training opportunities.

City of Kamloops - Sherry noted that two woodstove rebate programs (WSRP) launched this month: residents to upgrade to new woodstove or cleaner appliances, or to remove and recycle their old, uncertified woodstove without replacing it. There is a lot of public interest and some applications have been received already. They adopted more targeted marketing and mail out using GIS mapping variables such as age of homes, location etc. Sherry also looked into additional upgrades for woodstoves outside of the WSRP; between the 3 authorized retailers for the program, approximately 100 heating appliance upgrades were made altogether in 2019 which were not part of the rebate program. The WSRP had 38 exchanges in 2019 and 29 in 2018. Current program is offering 62 exchanges and 25 removals. Sustainability Services is working with BC Lottery Corporation to have an information series and present to them on various sustainability topics including promoting air quality through proper wood burning and promote the woodstove rebate programs. Working with Kamloops Fire Rescue to distribute wood burning information, and potentially to outside of Kamloops in TNRD. As requested at the last meeting, Sherry presented numbers on idling from city vehicles with GPS tracking: project initiated in 2016, reports since then, some increase in idling duration to 2017 (0.8%) then from 2017 to 2018, idling was reduced by 5.3%. No comparison of idling duration with fuel consumption yet. Alex noted that the old Owl road landfill will have progressive closure starting this spring, this will reduce dust for Valleyview and Juniper Ridge areas. Emily Lomas has moved on to MOECCS as invasive fauna specialist.

First Nations Health Authority - Fiona reported that they are continuing to support communities on radon testing and awareness; otherwise not much going on with air quality.

Domtar - Tiffany noted that their 16 day shutdown for maintenance in late October was longer than normal. They are doing environmental reporting right now, and continuing to focus on total reduced sulphur and reduction through process optimization.

6. Next Steps

The BC Lung meeting is coming up on February 11 in Vancouver. MOECCS offered to pay for a webcast for those of us in Kamloops to participate remotely; however the main topics are perhaps of less interest than other years. Fiona noted that FNHA will be participating remotely, if anyone is interested in viewing it live, contact her and there is limited space at their office. Otherwise, the presentations are posted online.

It was agreed that while TtS are part of the KAQR, requiring their attendance to meet quorum is hindering the ability to make decisions as per the terms of reference. Gavin and Fiona offered to do regular annual meetings to TtS.

Future KAQR meeting dates and draft agendas

- May - Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance

Future presentation opportunities

- Low-cost air quality monitors, research on effectiveness - Dr. Peter Jackson, UNBC
- Shelter in place concept for City of Kamloops (evacuation, residents at risk)

Future field tour opportunities - spring 2020:

- Air station - federal station downtown (before Steve retires) (first choice)
- 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)
- TRU - boiler project; low carbon electrification and boiler replacements

List of Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Industrial tax incentive bylaw - Mike to follow up with Glen about moving this forward with City Council	Mike, Glen	Before next meeting
Contact Fiona if you want to view the BC Lung meeting live at the FNHA office in Kamloops	Anyone interested	Before Feb 11
Ask Kristin (Domtar) if you need a supply of wood ash	Everyone	Ongoing
Share plans for the proposed wood biomass system 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
Education Subcommittee tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up on action items in May 21 summary ▪ Gina, Ralph and Kristin to prepare a general presentation ▪ Gina to review curriculum material as her time, capacity and interest allows 	Mike, Gina, Ralph, Melissa, Jim, Kristin, Jaimi Garbutt (City)	Ongoing
Big Little Science Centre - follow up with them about including information on air quality aimed at various audiences; utilize May 21, 2019 Education Subcommittee summary with key messages by audience	Ralph, Gina, Jaimi Garbutt	Ongoing
Follow up with Sherry if you want stickers/info on idling reduction	Sherry	Ongoing
Investigate pollutants from emulsions facility on the national pollutant release inventory for any reporting by the facility	Gina	Ongoing
Seek to update the Terms of Reference to remove the requirement for First Nations to meet quorum	Mike	Before or at next meeting
Apply for grants (if needed)	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing

Appendix 1 - Excerpt from January 11, 2018 KAQR Meeting Summary

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 or eliminate taxes, 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.