

# Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at October 22, 2018

**Location:** TRU Campus, Kamloops

**Meeting Date:** July 18, 2018, 9:10AM to 12:00PM

## **Present**

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS)

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority (from 9:15AM)

Glen Cheetham, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)

Tom Chen, Interior Health Authority (from 9:15AM)

Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar (from 9:30AM)

Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority

Chris Higgins, New Gold

Ted Howe, TRU - Education

Joesphine Howitt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)

Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)

Melissa McGarry, School District 73

Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFA)

Sam Numsen, New Gold

Raynell Ortega, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc

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

Akanksha Singh, TRU - Education, MITACS Graduate Research Intern

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.

## **2. Previous Meeting Summaries**

Meeting summaries from October 5, 2017 and January 11, 2018 were 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). Mike provided an update on the industrial tax incentive bylaw that was supported by those present at the January meeting, but since quorum was not met, an official decision could not be made. Mike followed up after January 11, 2018 with Jo-Anne Hales, who brought the issue to her manager and Tk'emlups te Secwepemc council - a decision has not been made. Mike suggested that given timeframes around October local government elections, there is no rush on this. Glen suggested to connect with him and other city staff as well before any further action is taken.

## **3. 2017 Air Quality Data, Updates on Bulletins, Messaging and Air Quality Health Index**

Ralph Adams led a presentation on three topics:

- Air quality data for the Kamloops area, focusing on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and total reduced sulphur (TRS), the methodology for removing effects of 2017 wildfires. Key take-away points are that when wildfire effects are removed, there is no significant trend for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, it is stable, and within the BC annual air quality objectives (more stringent than the Canadian objectives). For TRS, which is an irritant for some people but not a

significant health impact for the majority of the population, there was an increase in the number of hours with >5ppb in 2017

- Smoky Skies Bulletins - based on experience from 2017, MOECCS, First Nations Health Authority, and all health authorities will work together on issuing these, aligned with Environment Canada's weather regions, and focused on health messaging and avoiding specific particulate matter concentrations.
- Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and AQHI Plus - a wildfire version of AQHI is being piloted from May 1 to Sept 30, which is more time-sensitive to changes in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. A winter AQHI Plus is under development.

All of the material Ralph presented can be found [here](#); scroll down to Presentations to KAQR, and then Presentations and Material from the July 18, 2018 meeting.

#### 4. Information Sharing Roundtable

City of Kamloops had numerous updates:

- Councillor Donovan Cavers put a notice of motion (NOM) for City Council to consider installing **Purple Air monitors** on City facilities to shore up the current network gap in certain neighbourhoods. Council deferred to Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC) for recommendations. The Purple Air vendor became aware of Councillor Caver's NOM and offered to give Michael Mehta 8 Purple Air Monitors at no charge, for the purpose of expanding the community network. Ralph Adams came and presented, and Michael Mehta phoned in for the June 19 SAC meeting. Main concern is the inconsistent health messaging, as per KAQR statement. Also concerns about ownership, liability. Sustainability Advisory Committee recommended to not get directly involved in hosting air quality monitors, acknowledging that air quality monitoring falls within Provincial jurisdiction. It is understood that Michael Mehta will be arranging to distribute the 8 gifted monitors to community members upon return from his sabbatical.
- An amended **idling bylaw** was recently established, with a focus on education. The City's Sustainability Advisory Committee had recommended to enhance the existing idling bylaw, which was limited to commercial vehicles in residential neighbourhoods. The amended good neighbour bylaw applies to all vehicles in all areas of City. The bylaw includes a number of limitations and exemptions (e.g., perishable goods, emergencies). Communication campaign rolling out soon, see [www.kamloops.ca/idlefree](http://www.kamloops.ca/idlefree). Other KAQR members are encouraged to share this messaging with their members/constituents/employees and others in the airshed.
- The 2018 **woodstove exchange program** is nearly fully subscribed. Staff will be presenting to Council a program report in August with recommendation to support 2019 program application.
- The **Airshed Management Plan review** will start in the immediate future.

Thompson Rivers University hosted a presentation on June 28 by University of British Columbia about their **biomass heating system** on campus in Vancouver; a number of KAQR members attended. Aaron noted that options for a system at TRU are still being considered, including whether it will be gasification or a boiler. Discussion was as follows:

- The City landfills produce a lot of **wood waste** ranging from large debris to construction debris. Need to determine interest in this landfill wood waste, opportunity to clean it and use for a wood biomass plant. How much biomass will the plant require?

- Glen noted that City has expressed interest in potentially receiving hot water c/o loop from a TRU biomass plant to help heat the Tournament Capital Centre.
- There still is a **bylaw banning outdoor wood-fired boilers** that would need to be addressed before any proposed TRU biomass plant proceeds.
- **Public engagement** still needs to be addressed, to answer questions about emissions

**New Afton Mine** health and safety department conducted their routine biannual fit-testing as part of the Respiratory Protection Program. New addition was a hazard field guide, with education around respiratory protection, what environments, and what circumstances provided to employees. New Afton incorporating new construction methods on tailings facility builds, using various sized rock fill from historic pit for up to 50% of dam construction this year, focusing on downstream side, instead of just sand. Anticipated side effect will result in reduced dust from production.

**Interior Health Authority** have done lots of work on new health bulletins and messaging over the winter. IHA website being upgraded. Greg says <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/wildfires> is a good link. Sarah Henderson leaving BC Centre for Disease Control soon.

**Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** continues work on testing purple air monitors, think they have solved many of the issues. The sensor manufactured in China works well, but the problem is the messaging on the website; not just that it's using an American air quality system, but it is calculating things incorrectly. Universities involved; figuring out how to address these problems including winter conditions, humidity, wildfires; Ralph suspects there is great promise with these devices. Minor amendment of Lafarge and Thompson River Venuers permits are underway.

**TRU Education** has a joint partnership with Big Little Science Centre. In addition, MITACS funded Akanksha's position. She has a master's degree in atmospheric science and is pursuing research at TRU, building on previous work done by Paul Heron, a recent teacher candidate. This research involves three pillars to education - teacher resource kit that Paul Heron has piloted; interactive display being built by Big Little Science Centre; and a website to analyze monitors and have health indicators, warnings for at risk people, how to interpret for non-science people using Purple Air Network monitors. Ted's teacher candidate, Paul Heron (now graduated) connected with Gina during his practicum. Interest was expressed in learning about what teacher resources, lesson plans and curriculum material exists, as other members of KAQR interact with school-aged children as well. These materials will be available from the Henry Grube Education Centre.

**First Nations Health Authority**, in addition to being involved in new Smoky Skies Bulletins and other health messaging, are promoting awareness of Environment Canada heat warnings EC alert me website sent to me.

**Kamloops Moms for Clean Air** missed Clean Air Day and the Green Living Expo, but did have a display at the walk for peace, environment and social justice in spring. Raised awareness about idle-free bylaw, gave out lifesavers, but not well visited. Still interested in education end of things. Lesson plan for classrooms exists; hoping to bring the Idle Free car dealer from Halifax to Kamloops, but he had health issues recently.

Tk'emlups te Secwepemc completed their spring burning season, permits were issued in April and shared with Kamloops Fire Department. An energy plan is being developed, aiming for completion by end of the year. Raynell is a new Junior Engineer at TtS.

Melissa McGarry introduced herself as Manager, Health & Safety at School District 73, and is relatively new in the role. Glen asked about waste management systems at schools, as they seem to vary from school to school. Glen encouraged SD#73 to seek opportunities to improve school waste collection in order to leverage student's developing waste literacy. Question was asked about a Purple Air Network monitor at Lloyd George school; there is no official policy at SD73 about using them.

## 5. Finances and Contributions

The total \$8000 in contributions for the year ending March 31, 2018 from KGHM, TRU and City of Kamloops was expended. For the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2018, \$5000 has been received to date from New Gold. At the meeting, City of Kamloops, Domtar agreed to contribute funds, and Aaron suggested to follow up with TRU about a similar contribution to last year. A budget of \$10 000 per year allows Mike to facilitate three to four meetings per year (prep, facilitate, summaries), maintain a website and some basic communications, and do some coordination and outreach between meetings.

## 6. Next Steps

### Next Meeting Date

- Tentatively scheduled for **mid-October**. Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance.

### Next Meeting Agenda

- 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)
- Educational resources and curriculum - Ted Howe, Gina Morris
- SD73 and idling buses
- New Afton presentation, idling reduction achievements to date
- Levoglucosan levels, Sarah Henderson research for Health Canada (Ralph to explore)
- New Afton tour, spring or summer 2019

## 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>	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
Share a <b>summary of California conference</b> and key papers with Mike for distribution	Aaron	ASAP

Consider <b>financial contributions</b> for 2018/19 to keep this roundtable functioning	Mike to follow up with Glen, Allan, Kristin, Jim	ASAP
Apply for <b>grants</b> (if needed)	Gina	As needed, when suitable grants are identified
<b>Talk</b> to each other, <b>share</b> resources, <b>collaborate</b> between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing

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After the morning meeting, fourteen people toured the Domtar pulp mill. Thanks to Kristin Dangelmaier and Domtar staff for hosting us.