

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Draft Meeting Summary as at May 13, 2020

Location: Online meeting via Go To Meeting

Meeting Date: May 11, 2020, 1:00PM to 4:00PM

Present

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

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority

Daniel Crossingham, New Gold

Tiffany Cobb, Domtar

Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar

Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority

Jim Gudjonson, Thompson Rivers University

Peter Jackson, University of Northern BC (guest, to 2:10PM)

Gavin King, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Sarah Martin, Thompson Rivers University

Allen Michener, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)

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. The agenda was approved as presented.

Note that quorum was not met without First Nations present.

2. Previous Meeting Summaries

The meeting summary from January 28, 2020 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; (see Action Items at end of this meeting summary):

- Industrial tax incentive bylaw - Mike reached out to Glen after the last meeting but there was no response. Sherry can assist with follow up. See Appendix 1 for an excerpt from the January 11, 2018 meeting summary about this topic.
- Terms of Reference and quorum requiring a First Nations participant present at meetings - Mike reported that neither Jo-Anne Hales nor Raynell Ortega are in their positions at T'kemlups te Secwepemc. It was agreed that KAQR wants TtS to participate, just not to be bound by having someone present to meet quorum. Fiona will work with Mike to connect with a TtS councillor about this.
- Kristin looked into the National Pollutant Release Inventory for what was reported from Pounder Emulsions (listed as Observant Products Ltd.) on the CN railway right of way adjacent to the TtS Mount Paul industrial park (listed as "Kamloops1"). Minor amounts of emissions were reported.

3. Low Cost Air Quality Monitors and Research on Effectiveness

Peter Jackson, Professor of Atmospheric Science at University of Northern British Columbia presented on his research on the effectiveness of monitors used in the Purple Air Network. See his presentation [here](#). His key conclusions are that these low cost monitors correlate well with expensive, stationary government monitors, and that corrections can be made in real time to make these devices useful to monitor PM2.5 at the neighbourhood level. Also, for the Prince George government station, it was found to be representative of local air quality.

Peter and graduate students have created a map of government monitoring stations and Purple Air Network monitors with corrections applied. The map covers Western Canada and is available at <http://weather.unbc.ca/aqmap> and Peter welcomes comments or suggestions to peter.jackson@unbc.ca

It was agreed that Peter's map is useful, and to put a link on our website. Challenges are how to communicate with owners of Purple Air monitors, to advise them on maintenance or replacing sensors (\$18 each x 2 per monitor), and to communicate to the public that they can be utilized with corrections.

4. Current Topics

Gavin reported that due to COVID-19 there was a burning ban put in place in mid-April in high [sensitivity smoke zones](#). There are some exceptions such as for diseased agricultural crops and wildfire risk reduction treatments as per a community wildfire protection plan. There are lots of exceptions as MOE's open burning ban doesn't apply to municipalities or backyard burning. Subsequently BC Wildfire Service restricted category 2 and 3 fires as well.

Gavin showed maps projecting wildfire severity and wildfire anomaly for summer 2020, and the risk of wildfires is above average for much of the BC Interior all summer. Managing emergency response, wildfire fighting and evacuations will be complicated with social distancing guidelines associated with COVID-19.

It was noted that there is no system in place to coordinate burning approvals and jurisdictions across BC (i.e., BC Wildfire Service, MOE, municipalities, agricultural purposes, etc.)

5. Education Subcommittee Update

The actions from the May 21, 2019 Education Subcommittee meeting, and those last discussed in January are still relevant. It's frustrating to work with formal curriculum content in the school system; a champion teacher is needed. Greg relayed that he also had challenges with this including radon in curriculum in the past.

It was also suggested to look at opportunities to incorporate air quality education opportunities through TRU's summer science camp Eureka (not running in 2020 due to COVID-19). Jim can connect us with TRU Eureka staff. Mike will follow up with Ralph (recently retired) to connect him with the education and citizen science initiatives.

6. Financial Commitments for 2020/21

Mike reported that \$6000 contributed for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 was appreciated to support his role in facilitating meetings, communicating in between meetings, and supporting communications staff with the maintenance of www.kamloopsairquality.ca

Mike will follow up with Sam, Kristin, Sherry and Jim after this meeting about contributions for the current year. Charitable tax receipts are available.

7. Information Sharing

City of Kamloops - Sherry reported that there was good momentum on the woodstove exchange program, then COVID-19 restrictions slowed things down. Things have picked up again recently. Brochures to educate people about woodburning practices have also been delayed; Kamloops Fire Rescue are continuing to distribute brochures with inspections.

Danielle reported that she has recently been hired as the Environmental Services coordinator, but will be going on maternity leave soon. She noted that progressive closure of the Kamloops Resource Recovery Centre is proceeding which will reduce dust in Valleyview and Juniper Ridge. Allen noted that there will be a large earthworks project at Mission Flats landfill this summer to extend the life of the landfill.

New Gold - Sam noted that they have shifted operations to adjust to COVID-19 requirements, notably with 100 staff working from home, and operational staff moving to longer shifts of 14 days on and 14 days off. They are working to secure their supply chain of personal protective equipment (PPE), and are doing temperature screening of employees pre-shift. They have also initiated optional Readiband fatigue monitoring for shift employees. Daniel noted that potential for summer wildfire smoke will put increased demand on masks and respirators.

Domtar - Kristin noted that Domtar is also adapting to the requirements of operating under COVID-19, and that they made their own hand sanitizer in their on-site lab. She noted that while air quality emissions are decreasing regularly, the financial impact of COVID-19 may impact the ability for continued capital investments for the short term.

Thompson Rivers University - Sarah introduced herself as Manager of Health, Safety and Environment. Jim noted that TRU is generally quiet, energy use is down 50% with most students, staff and faculty off-site. They are moving ahead with a low carbon electrification project which will reduce greenhouse gasses by 80% in 3 phases. He hopes to study air quality impacts of this transition.

Interior Health Authority - Greg has been involved recently on heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems with respect to COVID-19. He is working with Sarah Henderson of the BC Centre for Disease Control in advance of wildfire season. He noted that on May 15, there are new EPA/CSA requirements for emissions that come into effect, of 2.5 grams/hour. Many woodstoves recently sold already meet these requirements. See more detailed info:

- <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/choosing-right-wood-burning-stove>
- <https://cfpub.epa.gov/oarweb/woodstove/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.about>

First Nations Health Authority - Fiona noted that their main efforts are currently preparing for wildfire season with First Nations communities, complicated as a result of COVID-19.

Kamloops Moms for Clean Air - Gina noted that she shared a [UBC Faculty of Medicine publication](#) about COVID-19 and air pollution with the provincial health office, who were unaware of the document at the time. She wonders if there will be restrictions on use of fireplaces in the fall if COVID-19 restrictions continue, and continued open burning of debris. She commended the City on quick cleanup of winter traction material to reduce dust this spring. She is monitoring air quality improvements worldwide as a result of restrictions on various activities and industries.

MOECCS - Gavin noted that their section head recently left to work for Metro Vancouver, and that other air quality meteorologists had recently retired. Two have been hired recently. Gavin noted that Kamloops is too small to see a significant reduction in PM2.5 as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Large centres in Canada may see reductions, in particular of nitrous oxides as a result of less traffic.

8. Next Steps

Future KAQR meeting dates and draft agendas

- **Fall** - Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance, and ideas for topics

Future presentation opportunities

- Low carbon electrification at TRU - Jim Gudjonson
- Shelter in place concept for City of Kamloops (evacuation, residents at risk)

Future field tour opportunities (when able to):

- 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 |
| Seek to update the Terms of Reference to remove the requirement for First Nations to meet quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike to connect with Fiona for who at T'kemlups te Secwepemc to contact | Mike, Fiona | Before or at next meeting |
| Mike will follow up with Sam, Kristin, Sherry and Jim after this meeting about contributions for the current year. | Mike | By end of May |
| Education Subcommittee tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up on action items in 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) - Jim ▪ Connect Ralph (retirement email) | 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 |
| STANDING ITEMS | | |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Apply for grants (if needed) | Gina | As needed |
| Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings | Everyone | Ongoing |