

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as of January 19, 2023

Location: Online meeting via Zoom

Meeting Date: November 9, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Present

Alex de Chantal -Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)
Robert Wielgoz - TRU
Gavin King - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Alex Bursac - City of Kamloops (Environmental Services and Danelle Sparks will be replacing Alex moving forward.)
Patrick O'Brien - New Gold
Kristin Dangelmaier - Kruger
Mike Wypych - KGHM AJAX
Gina Morris – Kamloops Moms for Clean Air
Fiona Gorman – First Nations Health Authority (Joined at 1:15pm)
Jaimi Garbutt – City of Kamloops (Sustainability)
Glen Cheetham – City of Kamloops (Sustainability) (joined at 1:30pm)
James Gordon – TRU
Eryk Prytula – Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
Melissa McGarry – SD73
Travis Marr – Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation
Wayne Mayall - Lafarge

Guests

Dan Klassen – QS G2G

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Alex de Chantal welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Previous Meeting Summaries

It was noted there was an error in the Meeting Summary as Kristin is now working for Kruger who is the new owner, and the name Domtar is no longer used. No other edits/omissions were noted. The meeting Summary From June 29th, 2022 was approved.

3. Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable Business - Broadening the Scope

Glen proposed broadening the scope of the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable to include climate change given that its root causes contribute to air pollution. For example, when climate change-causing greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, other pollutants are typically released at the same time. Also, the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and extreme heat wave and wildfire

events, may also increase local air pollution. And while the City's Airshed Management Plan is still valid, many of its actions have been completed, whereas the City's Community Climate Action Plan – adopted in 2021 – features up-to-date targets and a robust implementation plan.

Travis noticed some changes to the TOR, has concern regarding the language and how it relates to UNDRIP. Concerned about lack of non-consultation clause, noticed it is now gone. SSN does have governance over the territory. Agencies and organizations are guests in our territory. The decision-making clause should perhaps be added back into TOR.

Gina thanked Travis for being here and she is happy to see so many from indigenous groups here at the meeting, and glad to hear you've reviewed the TOR. Could you clarify which decision-making structure you're speaking of?

Travis replied that free prior and informed consent is something that we have struggled with for years. No detailed agreement with first nations at this table. This is not a consultative table.

Glen concurred with Travis' position, noting this group does not have decision-making power as its participants may lack the authority to make decisions on behalf of the organization they represent. This round table is about sharing information and learning together to inform our respective efforts.

Gavin agreed this would not be deemed a consultative.

Kristin shared that as a long-time member of this table that the collective efforts are not in any way trying to be a substitute of consultative activities at this table. We are here for the sharing of knowledge and information so we can advance our own organizational understanding of the science of the topics we look at. This table doesn't make any commitments to decisions. We discuss how and where we choose to spend our time.

Robert added that he also agreed that this body is meant to be sharing knowledge only and does not have a decision making or "consultative" capacity. He appreciates Travis bringing it up and also apologized for having to leave so early - particularly during this important conversation.

Gina noted that this is also relationship building table. Our group started with educating the public about air quality and how it affects the body. If there is a need for a review of the TOR for this groups, if there is specific wording that needs to be changed or reworded to safeguard the feeling of indigenous involvement in this group, she really wants that to happen.

Glen noted the group's support to broaden the scope of the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable to include air quality and climate change, and agreed that an email chain is an effective way to start the process of revising the TOR but sees value in finalizing a revised TOR at an in-person meeting.

Action: Circulate previous TOR from past years and provide a living red line version for folks to provide input.

Fiona is concerned with reply all format, filling up inboxes. The 2021 TOR was signed off on by all parties.

Gina added that the group should look at original TOR. Just want to ensure that the education portion of this group is active. Kamloops Community Forrest is working on a project for natural forest. So important that we continue to support the youth. Here is the link to the Climate Education Reform BC (CERBC) - <https://www.climateeducationreformbc.ca/> they are the 2022 David Suzuki Foundation Future Ground Prize.

Travis suggested a living red line version of the TOR.

4. Information Sharing

Gavin - Smoky skies days, are any days where the bulletin is put out to the public. 2021 had 22 days and was the longest fire season on record running into mid October. 2022 in comparison had 55 Smoky Skies bulletin days. Graphs were put on screen to share with the group.

James – Always surprises me the number of fires that are human caused. Do you track this?

Gavin – Don't work with BC Wildfire, but they do have a dashboard that would track this data. 60-70% from lightning, 30-40% were human caused this year. Human caused tend to be more destructive as they typically start closer to infrastructure.

Kristin – Highlighted the ownership change from Domtar to Kruger. No changes in number of people employed, or products that are produced. Kruger is a family-owned business from Quebec, they also own Scotties. Happy to answer any questions people have.

Travis – Is Kruger part of the Halifax pulp mill that was close to the lake that got shut down by the Minister? Was that a Kruger company?

Kristin – No Kruger is not associated with that operation

James – Success with Campus Tree Program, 51 big trees and 51 small trees were planted. Increasing incentives in our bike program to try and get people to buy electric bikes as a commuting option. Currently doing risk assessment for the campus related to climate change. Just found out Nov. 1st working on STARS that they achieve their goal to achieve Platinum status, only Canadian institution to achieve it twice. The whole of TRU Kamloops campus has switched (Nov 1) to only buying renewable natural gas: <https://www.fortisbc.com/services/sustainable-energy-options/renewable-natural-gas>

Fiona – Seemed quiet this summer compared to last working with communities to find clean air shelter. November is radon month.

Alex – Been quiet for environmental front for air quality issues. Did start doing some construction at the Valleyview refuse site, started recontouring some of the steep cliffs. Oct. 22 household hazardous waste roundup day, lots of misc. liquids, paints. They collect any hazardous materials and dispose of them.

Patrick – Busy year, receive season mine acts permit to expand underground mine to expand mine life to 2030 at New Afton. In terms of air quality, put aside money to purchase electric vehicles. Next Friday a technical report will be submitted to Ministry for the tailing system. Our goal is a GHG reduction of 30% by 2026. Purchase more electric work trucks, also able to increase FBC contribution to the KAQR.

Jaimi – Coordinates the City’s Community Woodsmoke Reduction Program (formerly known as the Wood Stove Exchange Program). Jaimi advised that as per climate targets set out in the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#), the Province is no longer offering rebates for gas appliances, including fireplaces. As such, rebate amounts have been adjusted with an increased focus on promoting electric appliances. Rebates of 75% of the purchase/installation costs up to a maximum of \$1,000 are available to Kamloops residents who exchange an eligible wood burning appliance for an electric fireplace insert, or for replacing a natural gas fireplace insert with an electric fireplace insert. Noted increased amounts for switching to a heat pump; now up to \$1,500. If any residents simply want to remove a wood stove and not replace it, they may be eligible to receive a \$400 rebate through the ‘Wood Stove Scrap-It’ program. 32 appliances have been exchanged to date in 2022, including 4 electric appliances. More information at <https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/environment-sustainability/go-electric-kamloops> (note this page to be updated re: new incentives noted above)

Wayne – No updates, just enjoying getting to know the area here in Kamloops.

Melissa – Just finished 5-year strategic plan, added new sustainable language. Pilot with the one electric bus is a year in, curious to hear if there are any plans to purchase more. https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/our-district-board/resources/Strategic-Priorities/District_Strategic_Plan_2022-27.pdf

For the education discussion here is the BC's Curriculum regarding Science. <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science>

Travis – Have agreements with a few industries in the territory and busy working with mining and exploration companies. Looking at a lot of climate change legislation changes, offering input into updating archaic legislations. Noted that UNDRIP Calls to Action have been sent to local governments as well as local organizations. Keeping an eye on air impacts and watching cumulative effects to get a better understanding.

Dan – Deals with referrals all the time, one of the impacts we see are these solar farms on mining property on lands that are not reclaimed. Looking at the impacts on air quality.

Erik – Developing a landfill on reserve on road to Harper upgrading it and implementing more environmental precautions. has a composting facility as well and should be operational next spring.

John – No updates, enjoyed listening to the info sharing. Band has recently development Community Energy Plan with goals and targets that align with Paris Climate Goals, National, and Provincials standards. This will lead to resourcing operations.

5. Next Steps

Future presentation opportunities

- From Patrick O’Brien BC Hydro or New Gold Energy Specialist Andrew Cooper on Low Carbon Fuels Act
- 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

DRAFT

List of Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Circulate previous TOR from past years and provide a living red line version for folks to provide input.	Alex	January 2023
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). Looking at TD grant, needs to be project based.	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing
Add a SD73 rep, possible the new Science Coordinator	Alex/Robert	Fall
Look to replace Interior Health Rep	All	Fall

DRAFT