

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at October 10, 2017

Location: TRU Campus, Kamloops **Meeting Date:** October 5, 2017, 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Present

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Nicola Banton, KGHM Ajax

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority (from 9:05AM)

Danika Carlson, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Glen Cheetham, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)

Tiffany Cobb, Domtar

Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar

Korah Dewalt-Gagnon, New Gold (from 9:10AM)

Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority

James Gordon, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment

Jo-Anne Hales, Tkemlups te Secwepemc (from 9:20AM)

Chris Higgins, New Gold (from 9:10AM)

Ted Howe, TRU - Education

Laura Sampliner, City of Kamloops (Sustainability)

Nicole MacCulloch, KGHM Ajax

Reanna McMillan, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFCA)

Sam Numsen, New Gold (from 9:10AM)

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

Aaron Wiebe, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment (from 9:50AM)

Mark Wilson, Lafarge-Holcim

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. Legislation, Roles and Responsibilities Pertaining to Air Quality - MOECCS and IHA

Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) gave an overview of the [Environmental Management Act](#) and the role of MOECCS pertaining to air quality. Access his presentation [here](#).

Greg Baytalan, Specialist Environmental Health Officer, Interior Health Authority gave an overview of the role of the Interior Health Authority pertaining to air quality and the [Public Health Act](#). Greg focused on definitions of health hazard, the common use of the term prescribed in the act yet there are only air quality guidelines, not prescribed hazards. Greg also noted the term public health is not defined in legislation, described the challenges of population health vs. individual health, and the fact that there is no air quality regulation.

3. Wildfire Season Debrief

During summer 2017, there was a lot of public attention paid to air quality. There were ongoing advisories, bulletins, the promotion of the Purple Air Network, confusion over AQHI

scale with readings over 10, timeliness of information, and who has authority to cancel outdoor events were some of the issues seen and heard in the news and in discussion with Kamloopsians.

Ralph noted that the challenge with summer wildfire smoke is that concentrations can change rapidly, the attempted messaging that summer wildfire smoke can be a normal occurrence, and the proportion of the public who expect to be told when exactly there will be smoke. The other challenge is that federal monitors record PM_{2.5} on a rolling 24 hour average, AQHI operates with a 3 hour running average, and is not a measure of PM_{2.5}, compared to the Purple Air Network with its known limitations of accuracy report instantaneously - all of these different tools are likely confusing the public.

This year, MOECCS's smoky skies bulletins aligned their regions with Environment Canada's weather regions. Ralph and Greg both noted that there will be changes coming to the AQHI system and reporting, as well as an overall review of what tools need improvement.

Feedback from those present on what communications methods worked well and what could be improved were as follows:

- Wording changes regarding consider avoid exertion vs. avoid exertion; messaging to school district and sports teams; SD73 used AQHI 7 to keep kids indoors
- MOE and IHA provides the information, but others need to make decisions on events
- Confusion around AQHI colours, scale of 47 out of 10
- More difficult to find actual PM_{2.5} values on the new BC Air Quality website
- Young people at TRU seemed indifferent to the smoke and messaging
- Roles and messaging - MOECCS, IHA vs. City officials
- Confusion about using masks or no masks
- City - difficult to decide whether events proceeded; worked with Tourism Kamloops; affected all sorts of businesses. Improve messaging of what the different tools, communication methods and tools are and what their intent and purposes are.
- Purple Air network and webcams were a tool to find areas of reprieve
- Centre for Disease Control has factual information that wasn't utilized much

ACTION - if roundtable members have additional feedback on what worked well, what could be improved, please email greg.baytalan@interiorhealth.ca and ralph.adams@gov.bc.ca

4. April 7, 2017 Meeting Summary

The previous meeting summary was approved. All outstanding actions were completed.

The draft statement on Purple Air Network, dated May 4, 2017 was reviewed; generally, people were satisfied with the current content, with the addition of including a link to the BC Air Quality website, and posting it online as a technical resource we have agreed to, but not intended for the general public. It was agreed to remove the "draft" label, put today's date, and post it online. It may be updated at a future meeting if and when new information becomes available.

5. Woodstove Exchange Program

Glen Cheetham, Sustainability Services Supervisor, and Laura Sampliner, Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Kamloops gave a presentation on the survey results of residents

who own wood burning appliances, and the outline of the proposed woodstove exchange program. Funding has been applied for from MOECCS, and if successful, the residents could commence applications in January. Access their presentation [here](#).

There are a series of questions that Glen and Laura would like feedback on:

1. What marketing opportunities do you see for the program?
2. How can we best overcome obstacles of the program (Identifying appliances, lack of retailers, lack of resident interest etc.)
3. What are the drivers of residents changing behaviour (i.e. what is going to sell this program to residents)?
4. Suggestions to improve/enhance resident application process?

ACTION - roundtable members to send answers to these questions to lsampliner@kamloops.ca

6. Information Sharing Roundtable

The following was shared:

- Ted reported that funds have been acquired from Community Development Research Fund, and there are five teacher candidates supported; Year 2 teacher candidates include Paul Heron and Thomas Giroday who is working with Big Little Science Centre. They had a Clean Air Day event with Chamber of Commerce at BLSC, and tapped into Purple Air Network. There is now an interactive model for visitors to use. Lessons for K-12 through Henry Grube Education Centre. Funding from MITACS to get an international student to come and do a summer program working with Education faculty. KAQR would like to see content of lessons for K-12 students.
- Nicola reported that the final EA commenting period closes Oct 10. Some air quality specific conditions up for comment: condition 10 around AQ data review, independent third party involved, and condition 20 around AQ and fugitive dust management plan.
- Fiona noted that First Nations Health Authority were supporting other areas in the province during wildfires, were providing updates on PM_{2.5} and CDC data to other FN communities. HEPA filters were provided, and established clean air centres.
- Aaron is a TRU student, and also works for the TRU Office of Sustainability and Environment. He is pursuing education about air quality on campus including air quality and wood biomass as a heating fuel and its practicalities.
- Jo-Anne noted that Tkemlups te Secwepemc was busy with flooding, emergency response, and operating an emergency operations centre this summer. Lots of information on smoke and air quality was shared with community members. October is when burning permits are issued to band members for grass and yard waste burning. Jo-Anne has three "Partisol" air quality monitors, needs help setting them up and collecting information; Ralph offered to help.
- Mark noted that Lafarge is in shut-down. Much less dust since not operating. They are trying to get business back up and running, utilizing gypsum to create fertilizer for mushroom farming, and turning product into fertilizer balls. Kuerig K-cup were incinerated in the kiln during their operation, but no longer while in shut-down.
- Danika and Reanna reported that as community resource technicians with MOECCS, their role is to do community engagement and respond to environmental concerns. They just started working on community plans; internal scoping, talk to experts, and also support environmental protection officers around the province.
- Kristin reported that Domtar is continuously improving to reduce odours and emissions, and support air quality monitoring. They have engaged with Danica and Reanna. A

short-term maintenance shut down takes place coming up Oct 18 for 24-36 hr; request was made to let City public works know when these occur, as there often are inquiries when anything appears different with Domtar's operations.

- Korah reported that during the wildfire season, AQHI and other information was shared with New Gold employees. Filtration in some buildings was not great; employees get fitted with N95 masks. Collected local air quality information at mine site and monitored AQHI and 3 hour lag time. Anti-idling program continuing from 2016 for energy and emissions reduction.
- Gina and the Kamloops Moms for Clean Air are still trying to raise awareness of impacts on children's health, trying to get SD73 to the roundtable. SLR report on Ajax, PM10 is still a pollutant of concern, they have raised the profile of that.
- James reported that TRU is hosting a climate change event on October 26 starting at 1pm, there will be a showing of Al Gore's movie An Inconvenient Sequel, followed by a live Q & A with Al Gore for an hour (by video link). Tickets needed, info [here](#)
- Glen noted that the City is doing an update report on the Airshed Management Plan, and will want to bring it to a future meeting of this roundtable. Corporate Anti-Idling program ongoing, operational and unnecessary idling identified. Community program on anti-idling has been initiated. A greenhouse gas community action strategy is next, getting a consultant in place currently. Ecosmart team had a Clean Air Day event.

Mike noted the following upcoming events:

- "Monitoring residential woodsmoke" webinar, Oct 25, 12PM-1PM - register [here](#)
- BC Lung Radon Workshop, Nov 23 in Kelowna- info [here](#)
- BC Lung Annual Air Quality and Health Workshop, Feb 5 in Vancouver - info [here](#)

7. Financial Contributions for 2017/18

Mike reported that for the current fiscal year (ending March 31, 2018), there is \$8000 contributed from KGHM Ajax, TRU and City of Kamloops. Funds spent to date are approximately \$3700. Mike reported that for the current level of activity (3-4 meetings per year, communication in between meetings, some media outreach, website maintenance) that \$10 000/year is ideal, but we can survive with 3 meetings per year on current funds.

8. Next Steps

Next Meeting Date

- Tentatively scheduled for **January 2018**. Mike to seek date in early December.
- 3 meetings/year (pending funding): spring, fall, winter

Next Meeting Agenda

- City of Kamloops Airshed Management Plan - 5 year review of progress to date (TBD)
- Possible presentation*
- Information sharing roundtable (minimum 30min)

*Future presentation topics to arrange:

- Ted Howe - K-12 curriculum on air quality being developed (February 2018 at earliest)
- Colin O'Leary (formerly Venture Kamloops) - industrial tax credit update
- New Gold - idling reduction achievements to date
- Levoglucosan levels, Sarah Henderson research for Health Canada