

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at Sept 27, 2016

Location: TRU Campus, Kamloops

Meeting Date: Sept 23, 2016, 9:05AM to 11:55AM

Present

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority (from 9:45AM)

Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar (to 10:40AM)

Korah Dewalt-Gagnon, New Gold

James Gordon, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment

Jim Gudjonson, TRU - Office of Sustainability and Environment (from 9:30AM)

Jo-Anne Hales, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc

Ted Howe, TRU - Education (to 11:20AM)

Josephine Howitt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability) (to 10:00AM)

Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)

Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air (KMFCA) (to 9:50AM)

Casey Neathway, First Nations Health Authority

Nettie Ore, KGHM Ajax

Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC)

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, and several early departures were noted.

Quorum was attained, with one representative from each of industry, health authority, community (TRU or interest group), First Nations and local government.

2. Membership Changes

The membership and contact list was reviewed on screen, and all those present reaffirmed their consent to share contact info by email. Personnel changes were noted as follows:

- Stephanie Voysey is back at Lafarge
- Kate Parsons has left KGHM Ajax to take a position with Ministry of Energy and Mines; Nettie Ore will replace her on the roundtable
- Emily O'Hara has left New Gold to take a position with Highland Valley Copper; Korah Dewalt-Gagnon will replace her on the roundtable

3. February 22 and May 2, 2016 Meeting Summaries

The February 22 and May 2 meeting summaries were approved by those present with a few minor corrections noted, and as per the terms of reference, will be posted as a pdf file on the website. Emily requested that Glen Cheetham, the only City of Kamloops representative at the Feb 22 meeting review the summary for any errors.

Financially, there is \$10 000 in contributions for the roundtable from KGHM, New Gold, TRU and City of Kamloops to support FBC's facilitation/secretariat role until March 31, 2017. 2017/18 contributions will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Clean Air Day Feedback

The media release about the roundtable and the website was released on Clean Air Day, Wed June 8. Mike noted that there was significant media interest, with a CBC radio interview, a CFJC-TV interview, and most print/web news sources posted a story (Kamloops This Week, News Kamloops, Kamloops BC Now).

Those present said that while it was good coverage, they didn't hear much feedback, whether good, bad or otherwise. Discussion about the messaging that the roundtable should relay is that it is one of continuous improvement: air quality isn't terrible, but there is always room for improvement. Mike noted that he and Gina had discussions over the summer, and it's a difficult balance between scaring people and having them think there's nothing they can do, compared with saying everything's fine and there's nothing for them to do.

Venture Kamloops approached Mike after Clean Air Day, requesting to join the roundtable. Mike also had discussions with individual members of the roundtable about approaching other groups to join the roundtable, such as Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment (KPHE).

The following was agreed to as process:

- Any new members to the roundtable have to agree to the current terms of reference (i.e., purpose, objectives)
- Any new members to the roundtable must be a decision of the roundtable (i.e., quorum is met, consensus decision)

The following was agreed to for specific groups:

- Open to having Venture Kamloops join since they approached us, but need to understand their interest. Invite them to the next meeting
- Don't reach out to other groups yet. Consider KPHE and others in the future, but this roundtable is still in its infancy and has had lots of changes in people participating

5. City of Kamloops Idling Reduction Strategies

Josie Howitt, Sustainability Program Coordinator, described the corporate idling reduction strategies underway at the City of Kamloops. See presentation named *City of Kamloops Idling Presentation 23sept16.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary, which will also be posted on the website.

The Natural Resources Canada idling campaign that Josie is using as a resource is available at <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/idling/4397>.

Feedback from those present was positive. It was suggested that the City communicate to the wider community the efforts made within City staff/fleets to date, and to monitor the changes in behavior going forward.

6. Thompson Rivers University Proposed Biomass Heating System

Jim Gudjonson, Director, TRU Office of Sustainability and Environment, gave a presentation on a proposed district heating system using biomass for the TRU campus. See presentation

named *TRU biomass proposal 23sept16.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary, which will also be posted on the website.

The intent of the project is to achieve carbon neutrality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and realize cost savings. It was noted that the technology exists to ensure that such a system would not deteriorate air quality, and as Jim works with the engineers on the final design, this will be ensured before it proceeds to the build phase. A similar, but much smaller system has been built on the Williams Lake TRU campus and is just starting up operation this fall.

As was noted previously (Feb 22, 2016), there is a City bylaw in place prohibiting the use of outdoor wood boilers; an exemption would need to be sought for this project.

7. Information Sharing Roundtable

Those present were invited to share anything relevant to the purpose of the roundtable. A very brief highlight is captured below:

- Emily noted that the City of Kamloops is committed to make an application to the Woodstove Exchange Program in fall 2017. Looking to set it up right to minimize staff time to administer it, and to supplement the rebate with other sources of funds. Opportunities were noted to deliver this across the airshed, involving Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, Thompson Nicola Regional District.
- Korah noted that New Gold has an energy specialist on site and makes recommendations for actions staff can take in their homes, as well as on the job.
- Ted noted that action research will become part of the B.Ed. curriculum, with a pilot project at Sahali Secondary. He also noted that Gina has told him about a smartphone app that has local air quality parameters
- Casey noted that FNHA's current focus is on indoor air quality - notably radon and carbon monoxide. FNHA is also initiating a local environmental observer program (e.g., a citizen science program) - see the following link for more information: [http://www.fnha.ca/newsContent/Documents/The%20Local%20Environmental%20Observer%20\(LEO\)%20Network_Final.pdf](http://www.fnha.ca/newsContent/Documents/The%20Local%20Environmental%20Observer%20(LEO)%20Network_Final.pdf) Casey also noted for Jo-Anne that there are federal funds for woodstove exchange on reserve, as well as radon testing.
- Greg advised that fall/winter is the best time to test for radon in your house, go to www.radonaware.ca to learn more and get a test kit. He mentioned a 2005 best management practices guide to mitigate road dust from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Burning garbage in backyard barrels is still an ongoing issue in many areas. Greg suggests an education campaign around splitting and curing wood in spring, not fall for those with woodstoves. Air quality monitoring is occurring downhill from Blackwell Dairy.
- James and Jim noted that TRU has a new indoor air quality website, that Bike to Work Week was extended from one week to one month this spring, that Fortis BC and BC Hydro have energy conservation programs with TRU, and that TRU is moving towards a hybrid or electric vehicle fleet
- Jo-Anne noted that she is working on addressing lack of information sharing with the community, and challenges with being a federal jurisdiction where provincial laws or local bylaws don't apply. She is developing environmental bylaws, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc have this authority from the federal government.
- Nettie noted that KGHM is continuing air quality monitoring partnerships, while their application remains on hold as they address comments.

8. Next Steps

ACTIONS:

- All members to share information about the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable with their constituents/memberships/colleagues
- Josie and/or Ted will follow up with School District 73 about filling their vacant position on the roundtable
- Mike to follow up with Venture Kamloops, invite them to explain their interest in the roundtable at the next meeting
- Mike to have approved meeting summaries and today's presentations posted on web
- Participants can pay for their TRU parking online, or download an app from www.paybyphone.com (note parking lot H, and possibly others, is their location 1948)

Next Meeting Date

- Tentatively scheduled for **December 2016** (week of Dec 5 or 12). Mike to seek date with a doodle poll later in the fall.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Meeting summary approvals - Sept 23
- Financial contributions for 2017/18
- Possible presentation on Domtar's operation
- Clean Air Day 2017 plans
- Education about curing wood in spring, not fall
- Information sharing roundtable (minimum 30min)

Future presentation topics to arrange:

- Lafarge operations and biosolids
- MFLNRO and others about slash pile burning, current regulations, evolving research and economics on alternative approaches