

# **Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable**

Approved Meeting Summary as at January 28, 2020

**Location:** Henry Grube Education Centre, Kamloops

**Meeting Date:** September 23, 2019, 9:10AM to 12:00PM

## **Present**

Ralph Adams, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Sherry Adjenim-Boateng, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services)  
Tiffany Cobb, Domtar  
Daniel Crossingham, New Gold  
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar  
Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority  
Jim Gudjonson, Thompson Rivers University (by phone, from 11:15AM)  
Emily Lomas, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)  
Melissa McGarry, School District 73 (SD73) (from 10:45AM)  
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)  
Aaron Wiebe, Thompson Rivers University

## **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.

Note that quorum was not met without First Nations present, but that Mike got Raynell's approval of the previous meeting summary via email during the meeting.

## **2. Previous Meeting Summaries**

Meeting summary from April 30, 2019 was approved (see note above about quorum).

Old action items from the previous meeting summary were reviewed. Many are on today's agenda; those complete have been removed; those not complete will be carried forward (see end of this summary):

- Domtar's wood ash is useful for biosolids, soil amendments, and odour control
- A one-pager about the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable was provided to City of Kamloops for the Green Living Expo in May
- TRU's biomass burner plans are still being explored
- Emily contacted Jamie Vieira of TNRD about participating in KAQR and the woodstove exchange program, but there was no interest
- Financial commitments to support labour and expenses for KAQR for the year ending March 31, 2020 total \$6000 and are from New Gold, Domtar, TRU and City of Kamloops

## **3. 2018 Air Quality Statistics**

Ralph reviewed the highlights of the 2018 air quality statistics (summary will be posted on [www.kamloopsairquality.ca](http://www.kamloopsairquality.ca) under the resources tab). Previous year statistics are generally available in May of the following year. Key points made were that PM<sub>2.5</sub> is the main air quality

parameter of concern, and with the effects of wildfire smoke removed, there trend is flat for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the Kamloops airshed - it's not getting worse.

In 2020 the Federal CAAQ Objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> will decrease, i.e. become more stringent. The annual average objective (averaged of three consecutive years, with wildfires removed) will decrease from 10 to 8.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Based on the current values and trends, Kamloops will meet the new objectives.

Total reduced sulphur (TRS) (or odorous reduced sulfur gases, ORSG) do not have health effects at the concentrations observed in Kamloops. However, they result in an objectionable odour which is associated with pulp mills, sewage treatment plants and some natural processes. In Kamloops there was an increase in levels in 2017 and 2018. Part of this is due to the fact that wildfire smoke at high concentrations can cause measured TRS levels to rise; however, even when the fire seasons are removed there is still an increase. Ralph noted that this is not associated with Domtar.

There is an emulsions production facility within the CN right of way on Mount Paul reserve that is not subject to either T'kemlups te Secwepemc or provincial legislation or requirements that could be the source of some TRS odour within the airshed. Gina will investigate the [national pollutant release inventory](#) for any reporting by the facility.

#### **4. Education Subcommittee Update**

The education subcommittee met on May 21, and the meeting summary was distributed to KAQR members in advance of this meeting. The summary was reviewed for what the subcommittee created as key messages, gaps, needs and opportunities. Those present agreed with what was created, and the following additional suggestions were made:

- Add some specific numbers, such as idling reduction outcomes for the City fleet
- Focus on what people can do in the presentation material, and quick messaging
- Engage with Kristin's son who is currently a B.Ed. candidate in the science, technology, engineering and math program

Mike reported that the position that Fraser Basin Council had hoped to fill from July to March, which would have provided a funded position to implement many of the actions, did not draw a suitable candidate that met the needs of the FBC Youth program within the funding that they had from the federal government for the position.

All actions in the Education Subcommittee meeting summary from May 21 are still relevant; they are just delayed in their implementation.

#### **5. City of Kamloops Update**

Sherry provided an update on Sustainability Services initiatives related to air quality, including the past year's woodstove exchange program, plans for this year's woodstove exchange program, a proposed woodstove scrap-it program, and idling education. Based on a survey of homeowners, and extrapolated to the larger population, it is estimated that there are between 12 000 and 14 000 woodstoves/open hearths in the City. Sherry's presentation will be posted on [www.kamloopsairquality.ca](http://www.kamloopsairquality.ca) under the resources tab.

The following information was requested for Sherry to track down: some numbers related to the City fleet idling reduction program (e.g., amount of fuel saved, cost savings); and the number of woodstove exchanges that occur beyond the rebate program (it was suggested woodstove retailers might have this info).

Emily reported that Environmental Services has had discussions with a steam engineer at TRU about sources of wood waste for a demonstration boiler (more below).

## 6. Information Sharing

*Thompson Rivers University* - Jim noted that steam engineer Byron Poppleton is looking into a pilot project in a small experimental boiler that doesn't produce any smoke, it goes into water. There are no definitive plans for the large scale biomass initiative. Need to talk to City about burning fuel; Byron chasing down funding; and connecting energy to buildings. Continue to reduce mobile emissions through fleet electrification. Lots of success with car share and bike share. Transit data is encouraging, gone from 3200 students to over 5000 using bus regularly. No single occupancy vehicle survey yet, doing it soon.

*MOECCS* - Ralph has hired his replacement, Gavin King is starting September 30. Ralph's last day is end of January. As of September 15, the new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) came into effect. Should not affect TNRD or Kamloops burning bylaws. Generally it is stricter in high sensitivity areas and less strict in low sensitivity areas. Mailing lists to distribute smoky skies bulletins and air quality advisories is being updated; a new system to subscribe and unsubscribe to get info from other sources. Ralph will forward to Mike to send to KAQR members. It uses Environment Canada forecast zones (i.e., South Thompson, South Cariboo). General public can sign up too. Ralph will come to next meeting with Gavin.

*New Gold* - trialling diesel emission particulate filters and retrofitting old vehicles, which will have a positive effect on employees' exposure. Ministry of Energy and Mines is doing a review of regulations and how mines operate, to be done by early 2020.

*Domtar* - maintenance outage planned in October to last 16 days, to do vessel inspections, upgrade equipment, etc. Seeking to improve efficiency, ongoing improvements in emissions. Seeking capital expenditures for future work. As a result of closures and curtailments in the forest industry, Domtar is paying more for fibre but operations are not curtailed. Sherry to get idling reduction stickers to Kristin for Domtar staff.

*Kamloops Moms for Clean Air* - still working with schools, aiming to use lesson plan endorsed by SD73. Seeking improvements to the Mineral Tenure Act with regard to proximity of mining near communities, working with Mining Watch Canada.

*First Nations Health Authority* - A quiet season as a result of no wildfire smoke.

*SD73* - continuously monitoring for asbestos post-Parkcrest fire. Nothing detected; there was vermiculite in the building. Key is to keep things wet. Melissa noted that there are radon measurement and mitigation courses coming up in Kelowna, put on by Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists. More information is available [here](#).

## 7. Next Steps

Future meeting dates and draft agendas

- **Late January or Early February** - Mike to seek a date in early January

Future presentation opportunities

- Low-cost air quality monitors, research on effectiveness
- Shelter in place concept for City of Kamloops (evacuation, residents at risk)

Future field tour opportunities - spring 2020:

- City - landfill, sewage treatment plant
- Air station - federal station downtown
- 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
Follow up with Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and City of Kamloops on next steps for <b>industrial tax incentive bylaw</b> ; Glen suggested to connect with him and other city staff as well before any further action is taken	Mike, Raynell	Before next meeting
Ask Kristin (Domtar) 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
Follow up with Glen Cheetham at City regarding public engagement, wood boiler bylaw issue	Jim, Aaron	Ongoing
<b>Education Subcommittee tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow up on action items in May 21 summary</li> <li>▪ Gina, Ralph and Kristin to prepare a general presentation</li> <li>▪ Mike to create short document, and Melissa to help coordinate meeting with SD73 science coordinator and/or principals, assistant superintendent</li> </ul>	Mike, Gina, Ralph, Melissa, Jim, Kristin, Jaimi Garbutt (City)	Ongoing
Follow up with Sherry if you want stickers/info on idling reduction	Sherry	Ongoing
Investigate pollutants from emulsions facility on the <a href="#">national pollutant release inventory</a> for any reporting by the facility	Gina	Before next meeting
Mike to follow up with some KAQR members about non-participation, determine if they want to stay involved	Mike	Ongoing
Apply for <b>grants</b> (if needed)	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, <b>share</b> resources, <b>collaborate</b> between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing