

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at February 3, 2021

Location: Online meeting via Zoom

Meeting Date: January 27, 2021, 10:00AM to 11:50AM

Present

Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority
Alex Bursac, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)
Daniel Crossingham, New Gold
Jaimi Garbutt, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services)
James Gordon, Thompson Rivers University
Gavin King, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Sarah Martin, Thompson Rivers University
Melissa McGarry, School District 73
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air
Sam Numsen, New Gold
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)

Guest

Jim Gudjonson, Fraser Basin Council (11:00AM to 11:15AM)

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 September 28, 2020](#) was approved by those present (see note above about quorum) with two corrections in the City of Kamloops report, and the removal of the action item for the industrial tax incentive bylaw which was complete.

Old action items from the previous meeting summary were reviewed (see Action Items at end of this meeting summary).

3. Information Sharing

City of Kamloops - Jaimi noted that the woodstove exchange program has just launched, there is up to \$1100 in rebates. There are also opportunities for electric inserts for up to 50% of the value or \$500 maximum. See [here](#) for more info.

Alex noted that the Kamloops Resource Recovery progressive closure is now complete. Berm construction at Mission Flats landfill to increase landfill capacity is still underway, there had been some dust concerns raised previously.

New Gold - Sam and Daniel reported that New Gold has its first fully electric vehicle in use, a boom truck (mid-sized flatbed truck) for general purpose use around the mine site. This is the first of hopefully more electric equipment, such as haul trucks, which will reduce emissions underground. James is interested in the specifications for the electric boom truck. Sam noted that the environment team will have more information to report at a future meeting.

Thompson Rivers University - James noted that TRU signed a climate emergency letter, content [here](#). They are revamping the bike share program. A major campus electrification process is underway, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 90%. A discussion ensued about connections between air quality, climate change, greenhouse gas emission reductions and connecting the dots and communicating the complexity of these things to the public and lay person.

Sarah noted that for most of the past year, with less people on campus, there have been energy savings from less heating and cooling, as well as less hazardous waste generated. TRU is gradually hoping to increase its face-to-face opportunities, contingent on health guidelines.

MOECCS - Gavin noted that while he is still analyzing data, 2020 was a quiet year on the local air quality front. With only one week of significant wildfire smoke in mid-September, there are very few spikes over 20µg/m³ of PM_{2.5}. A full report and presentation will be forthcoming. He and Gina chatted yesterday about a weird rotten-type smell in Aberdeen from a yet to be determined source. Gavin's key focus right now is finding a new location for the monitoring equipment in Quesnel.

School District 73 - Melissa noted that SD73 has acquired an electric school bus and the district expects to receive it late spring. SD73 has received increased funding and has used some of this funding to upgrade air filters on buildings. The district has also made modification to increase outside air to maximum allowable limits with considerations for temperature (comfort). Increased ventilation will increase cost and usage.

Kamloops Moms for Clean Air - Gina noted that as part of the SD73 district wide parent advisory council group, there was discussion about the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) announcement of January 5, 2021 regarding [fine particle aerosol transmission risks of COVID](#). They also discussed whether windows in schools should be opened, in some cases in other parts of BC they've been sealed shut. Gina noted that funds were announced for a rebuilding of Parkcrest Elementary; Melissa noted that the Ministry of Education has plans to build this to a LEEDS standard.

Interior Health Authority - Greg reported that he's working on COVID full time. He noted that the BCCDC has lots of resources available, in particular on [interactions of wildfire smoke and COVID](#) and that the science and understanding of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 has evolved over the past year with near proximity droplet spread the key mode of transmission, hence the mask focus. He stressed the need for planning ahead on HVAC equipment upgrades (higher MERV rated filters), for wildfire smoke or COVID-19, and the importance of getting such on the fiscal budgeting agenda, otherwise year after year slips by. There is currently a 6 month waiting time for MERV 13 filters which puts us into wildfire season. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), recommends increasing fresh air makeup to the maximum, 100% if possible. Adjusting make-up air can change indoor air balance and pressure, which can impact radon gas levels. As Melissa noted, maximizing fresh air circulation in buildings takes a lot of energy, and in cold climates, this involves heat loss.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) or Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) units can capture this heat, but these too come at a cost. Greg echoed Gavin's comments that the GHG equation is complicated. There can be a difference between actual carbon emissions and a carbon-credit emission on paper, as burning wood is considered carbon neutral, whereas it still expels carbon into the atmosphere. The GHG effect from the released CO₂ quickly exceeds that of the heat released by the initial fuel burning. Merely switching to electricity doesn't guarantee that the electricity being used is carbon-neutral, as during non-peak times, BC is on Alberta power created by fossil fuels; see [Western Canada Power Trading link](#) (note: look to the Interchange category, British Columbia "Path" & "Actual Flow"; a negative (-) Actual Flow indicates BC is exporting power to Alberta, and a positive (+) defines BC is importing. Compare power trading during different times of the day/night).

4. Sustainable Transportation Opportunities

Jim Gudjonson, Senior Manager, Sustainable Transportation with Fraser Basin Council, provided highlights of five different programs available.

- CleanBC Go Electric Public Charger Program: intended to increase the number of public direct current fast charger (DCFC) stations throughout BC, with a focus on filling gaps in indigenous communities, rural and remote areas, and city centres experiencing long queues for DCFCs. The program offers rebates for fast chargers; for example, up to 90% for indigenous communities <https://pluginbc.ca/publiccharger/>
- Charger Rebates: CleanBC Go Electric programs offer rebates for chargers at workplaces and at homes, including single family dwellings, townhomes, and condominiums. Rebates are administered by BC Hydro and FortisBC. <https://pluginbc.ca/incentives/#home-and-workplace-charging-incentives>
- Electric Vehicle Advisory Services: advisory services are available to workplaces and multi-unit residential buildings with shared parking garages, in BC. Advisors can provide various services to help find charging solutions for your site. <https://pluginbc.ca/ev-advisor-service/>
- Electric Vehicle Rebates: Purchase an eligible vehicle, apply for a rebate, and receive up to \$100,000 back. Rebate percentages for eligible tourism operators (members of Destination Marketing Organizations) for on-road medium and heavy-duty vehicles has increased to 66%. <https://pluginbc.ca/suvi>
- E-motive Program: a community outreach incentive program that offers financial assistance to BC communities, organizations, and local governments to assist in delivering electric vehicle awareness campaigns. <https://pluginbc.ca/outreach/#emotive>

For more information: Jim can be reached at the FBC Kamloops office, 250 314-9660 or jgudjonson@fraserbasin.bc.ca

5. Next Steps

Terms of Reference - an [updated terms of reference](#) was approved (see note above about quorum), with the key change removing the requirement of a First Nations representative to be present to meet quorum. Membership, composition and structure was cleaned up to list all organizations as being potential members of the KAQR. Facilitator contact info was updated to be current, and the website www.kamloopsairquality.ca was added.

Finances - FBC is managing to support the KAQR on only \$4000 this fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. Normally the contributions would be \$6000 or \$8000, but COVID-19 has impacted contributions from some partners. Discuss possibility of doing fewer meetings in the next fiscal year, pending funding contributions at the next meeting.

Future KAQR meeting dates and draft agendas

- **May 2021** - Mike to seek a date a few weeks in advance, and ideas for topics

Future presentation opportunities

- 2020 Air quality report, 2021 wildfire season projections - Gavin
- Low carbon electrification at TRU
- 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)
- TRU - boiler project; low carbon electrification and boiler replacements

List of Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Financial contributions - consider what partners can contribute for fiscal year starting April 1, 2021	Everyone	Ongoing
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) ▪ Connect with Big Little Science Centre, about including information on air quality aimed at various audiences 	Mike, Gina, Ralph, Melissa, Jim, Kristin, Jaimi Garbutt (City)	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	James Gordon	At future meetings
Follow up with Glen Cheetham at City regarding public engagement, wood boiler bylaw issue	James Gordon	Ongoing
Follow up with Jaimi if you want stickers/info on idling reduction	Jaimi	Ongoing
Apply for grants (if needed)	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing