

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at January 27, 2021

Location: Online meeting via Zoom

Meeting Date: Sept 28, 2020, 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Present

Sherry Adjenim-Boateng, City of Kamloops (Sustainability Services)
Greg Baytalan, Interior Health Authority
Alex Bursac, City of Kamloops (Environmental Services)
Daniel Crossingham, New Gold
Kristin Dangelmaier, Domtar (except approximately 10:00AM to 10:30AM)
Fiona Goorman, First Nations Health Authority
James Gordon, Thompson Rivers University
Gavin King, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Sarah Martin, Thompson Rivers University
Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air
Sam Numsen, New Gold (to 11:00AM)
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)
Mike Wypych, KGHM Ajax Mines

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 May 11, 2020 was approved by those present (see note above about quorum).

Old action items from the previous meeting summary were reviewed. Many are on today's agenda; (see Action Items at end of this meeting summary):

- Industrial tax incentive bylaw - Mike spoke with Glenn Cheetham and Derek de Candole of the City in late May. They are exploring a revitalization tax exemption, and elements of the industrial tax incentive bylaw could be incorporated.
- Terms of Reference and quorum requiring a First Nations participant present at meetings - Fiona connected Mike with Robert Griffiths of T'kemlups te Secwepemc who is currently their environmental specialist. A decision was previously made in May to modify the terms of reference to not require First Nations presence at a meeting to meet quorum.
- Financial contributions - thanks to City of Kamloops, New Gold, and Domtar for contributing a total of \$4000 to the roundtable for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2020. This is less than the normal \$6000 to \$8000, but some past contributors have been affected by COVID-19 and were unable to commit to funding this year.

3. Current Topics, Air Quality

Gavin provided a detailed overview of current status, and trends over the last decade for NO₂, SO₂, O₃ (ozone), total reduced sulphur (TRS) and particulate matter PM_{2.5}. He noted that during the interregnum period (after the writ has been dropped), government staff are limited in what they can commit to and discuss in public or multi-party meetings. As such, he was able to present on current topics in air quality, but his presentation slides cannot be shared until after the new government is formed.

A few highlights of his presentation:

- TRS - there is no formal objective, it was rescinded in 2006. Spikes seen both daily and hourly in 2017-2019, not sure what the source is. Doesn't correlate with Domtar's emissions. Could be related to forest fire smoke. Continued work being done to investigate this. Trend is upward, mostly from the northwest. Suspected source is Pounder Emulsions, which is on federal railway right-of-way and therefore not subject to *Environmental Management Act* permitting or regulations. Mike will approach some of his contacts at Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Greg and Gavin to discuss. Other possible future actions could include going to the media to raise concerns.
- PM_{2.5} - Gavin noted that 2019 was a typical "non-forest fire" year, in which the annual objectives and 24 hour objectives were met.

4. City of Kamloops Community Climate Action Plan

Sherry reported that the City of Kamloops has initiated a Community Climate Action Plan, with targets for emissions reductions from transportation, buildings and waste. She invited roundtable members to share the opportunity for input with their colleagues and staff through in-person open houses this week at the Yacht Club (September 30 evening, October 1 afternoon and evening) or online by October 12. More details at <https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/news-events/news-releases/city-kamloops-launches-climate-action-plan-community>

5. Education Subcommittee Update

The actions from the May 21, 2019 Education Subcommittee meeting, and those last discussed in January are still relevant. COVID-19, challenges of home-schooling and other constraints on people's time have delayed the implementation of education subcommittee tasks.

6. Information Sharing

City of Kamloops - Sherry reported that the woodstove exchange program was temporarily shut down due to COVID-19 in the spring, but they are up and running and expect to be fully subscribed for up to 62 rebates. There is interest outside of the City boundaries, and City staff are in conversation with TNRD about delivering the program outside of the City. An application has been submitted to MOECCS for the woodstove exchange program in 2021. There is also some interest from residents who want to scrap their wood burning appliance and not replace it with anything; it just gets recycled properly.

On the topic of woodstove restrictions, the City does not have any in place as the majority of PM_{2.5} issues are in the summer, not winter. Alex noted that progressive closure of the

Kamloops Resource Recovery Centre is proceeding with progressive closure which will reduce dust in Valleyview and Juniper Ridge; it will be seeded this fall. He also noted that the large earthworks project at Mission Flats landfill has had some dust issues, the contractor is now wetting things down to minimize dust.

New Gold - Sam noted that three electric vehicle charging stations have been installed to allow employees to charge their vehicles while on site. They are exploring battery operated mine equipment for underground use. Other than COVID-19, it is business as usual, with approximately 80% to 90% of office employees working from home.

Domtar - Kristin noted that Tiffany Cobb has left Domtar. She noted that Domtar is not odour-free, but they are regulated by MOECCS on their emissions and work with them on data requests. Domtar issued a public notice, as required by regulation, in various formats in August to notify the public that they manufacture, store and use chlorine dioxide on site and that there is a risk that this could move off-site. Kristin heard very little response and a few KAQR members advised her that they did indeed hear of the notice. Kristin noted that the wood ash that Domtar produces as a by-product of their processes is being utilized by the City of Kelowna, it meets certain standards and chemical analysis is available.

Thompson Rivers University - James advised that TRU has a new research chair in Predictive Services, Emergency Management and Fire Science, but that the position is not filled yet. More details at <https://inside.tru.ca/2020/07/30/tru-heads-collaborative-research-into-wildfires/> TRU continues to be recognized as a top sustainability university across North America, including being ranked third by the Sierra Club and being in the top 30 of the Princeton Review. Campus life is quiet with only 500 students, compared to 8500 or 9000 pre-COVID-19. Sarah noted that she is working on a hybrid approach to indoor ventilation and air quality, and the conflicting messaging around wildfire smoke and COVID-19.

KGHM Ajax Mines - Mike Wypych noted that he has been hired as the superintendent, and while most activity stopped in 2017-18, he is working on a few things regarding their site.

Interior Health Authority - Greg had a few updates:

- He noted that the BC Wildfire Smoke Response Working Group met online Sept 23, among other things BCCDC with input from the Group have drafted guidelines on how to construct a low-cost indoor air box filter; final version of instructions to be released in the future.
- Greg noted that there has been some confusion around messaging for wildfire smoke vs. COVID-19 (stay indoors, shut windows vs. obtain fresh outdoor air), which arose in mid-September when much of BC was impacted by wildfire smoke from the USA. There are concerns in particular for schools, long-term care facilities and child care facilities. As per input by the Wildfire Response Working Group, it is anticipated that BCCDC will have refined information for schools, etc., on this next year. Present good resources by BC Centre for Disease Control website has good resources for wildfire smoke during COVID-19, listed below:
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/wildfires>
 - http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Wildfire_Smoke_Care_Facilities.pdf

- Map predicting wildfire smoke movement is at <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>
- A survey is being launched to assess the uptake of messaging during wildfire smoke events. Greg will forward Mike this Legacy for Airway Health Survey in the near future. https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b7NR4xxtqhiUOwt
- An asthma prediction website is available at <https://maps.bccdc.ca/bcaps/>
- Greg encouraged everyone to get their homes tested for radon, kits are available for \$29.00 including analysis from the BC Lung Association Radon website at www.radonaware.ca Highly concerning is that many schools and public buildings have still not been tested.
- The Regional District of Central Okanagan has launched a radon kit test challenge this fall, see <https://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/air-quality-program/radon-challenge.aspx>
- BC Lung Association encourages a 100 kit radon test challenge for communities, see <https://takeactiononradon.ca/100-radon-test-kit-challenge/>

First Nations Health Authority - Fiona noted that it was a quiet season with so few forest fires, but they did deploy numerous air filters to First Nations communities. While FNHA cannot endorse specific air filters, in response to a question, Fiona noted that they distribute brands AeraMax and Honeywell to communities. Gavin advised people to not purchase a filter that produces ozone. Fiona provided some links from Sarah Henderson at BCCDC:

- <https://crosscut.com/focus/2020/09/how-british-columbia-protects-its-people-wildfire-smoke>
- <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/datalab/wildfire-blog.html>
- https://www.dropbox.com/s/fsys0m0iucblu6o/catz2020_national_smoke_impact_assessment.pdf?dl=0

Kamloops Moms for Clean Air - Gina noted that the response letter from the provincial health office regarding air quality impacts and COVID-19 was disappointing. Her group is concerned about wood smoke from woodstoves, impacts in local neighbourhoods, and whether a resident has no other heat source or if they are choosing to burn wood, and what opportunities may exist for the community to support residents to heat their homes with something other than wood.

MOECCS - Gavin noted that air quality subscription services can now be sent by email or text.

7. Next Steps

Future KAQR meeting dates and draft agendas

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

Future presentation opportunities

- Low carbon electrification at TRU
- Shelter in place concept for City of Kamloops (evacuation, residents at risk)
- 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 (before Steve retires) (first choice)
- 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
Seek to update the Terms of Reference to remove the requirement for First Nations to meet quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need T'kemlups te Secwepemc agreement ▪ Confirm that all members get meeting summaries ▪ Confirm if Skeetchestn wants to still be involved 	Mike	Ongoing
Financial contributions - a further \$2000 minimum to fulfill fiscal year 2020/21 requirements	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
Total Reduced Sulphur - investigate federal sources of information for emissions from Pounder Emulsions	Mike, Gavin, others	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	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
Follow up with Sherry if you want stickers/info on idling reduction	Sherry	Ongoing
Apply for grants (if needed)	Gina	As needed
Talk to each other, share resources, collaborate between meetings	Everyone	Ongoing