

Air Quality Council Meeting: September 24th, 2015

Notes from the meeting held on Thursday, September 24th, 2015 at 2:00 pm in the ACRD Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Judy Carlson
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
Andrew McGifford (ACRD Environmental Services)
John McNabb (ACRD)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Gary Swann
Sarah Thomas (Chair)

Regrets: Dave Jarrett
Sharie Minions (City of Port Alberni)
Tim Pley (Fire Department)

Minutes of the May 14th, 2015 meeting were approved.

1. Chair – Updates (Sarah)

Spring/Summer Report	A brief report highlighting activities of the AQC over the past Spring and Summer was compiled. The report will be made available to funders.
Fall/Winter Workplan	A Fall/Winter workplan was distributed outlining key objectives for Sept-Dec (esp. Woodstove Exchange) and Jan-April (esp. BY burning).
AQC Representation	Andrew McGifford – New Manager of Environmental Services at the ACRD. We welcomed him to the AQC. Our newest member. Have invited participation from Hupacasath (contact: Rick Hewson, <i>CEO</i>)/Tseshaht (contact: Holly McLaughlin, <i>Housing Administrator</i>). John mentioned that Huu-ay-at is also interested in participating more closely with the AQC. The AQC is looking for a health rep. Sarah to contact Penny Cote regarding this from the angle of the ACRD Health Network.

Updates

Fire Control Bylaw and Backyard Burn Ban update

- City passed a back yard burn ban effective April 2016
- New Fire Control Bylaw...allows fines. Allows fire dept to ban burning

District Energy Facility

RFP sent out August 12. due back Nov.3. Info session was held Sept 1.

Website/AQC meeting minutes

Meeting minutes are posted. Yay! Thanks Lori. Minutes were also submitted as correspondence for the Board. Minutes will also be submitted to the City as informational correspondence following meetings.

2. Air Quality Monitoring Update (Earle)

What is the latest information from the PM2.5 Monitoring?

July Wildfire peak is the largest in the last 5 years.

2011 was an El nino year >> warm and wet (damps air emissions). Expecting another El nino year this year so it will be interesting to see what happens.

What helps increase air quality?

-Public education seems to help (as seen in the data in 2011/2012 when a lot of public education was happening).
-Weather is a big one.

What is the status of the Air Quality analysis report for Port?

Coop Student working on it. Will be complete by year end.

3. Wood Stove Exchange (John/Andrew)

How did the program finish up last Spring?

23 stoves were exchanged last spring.
17 stoves remained for the program from September-December

What is the status of the current Program?

Public education about the program was undertaken at the Fall Fair. Dolan's lent a stove which was on display at the ACRD booth. Thanks to ACRD staff and directors for promoting the AQC and woodstove exchange throughout the weekend.
12 stoves remaining at present.

2016 funding application

The AQC is supporting the ACRD to submit an application for 2016 funding to continue the woodstove exchange for another year.

4. Solid Waste Management (John/Gary)

What's the status of the organics strategy/SWM Implementation plan?	There is discussion around implementing a test program focusing on commercial producers of organic waste (restaurants, stores...). Discussion about some of the many opportunities and challenges surrounding this topic. More will be known in the coming months.
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5. CanTimber BioChar Facility Update (Earle)

What is the status of the project at this point?	Dave McCormack was invited to the AQC meeting to give an update however he was unable to attend. Earle gave an update on the Biochar Facility as far as he knew.
What are the key aspects of the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facility has a Licence of Occupation from PAPA to operate. -Using forest harvest residue to produce 2200 tonnes activated charcole/year. -Closed loop system utilising a carbonation furnace to completely burn the synthetic gases.
What impacts are expected?	The model indicates that the emissions will be very low. Some building downwash is expected within about 25 meters of the building.
What Air Quality monitoring will occur?	This is not yet known. There was some indication from PAPA that baseline monitoring would occur however, to our knowledge, there is no air quality monitoring occurring to date and test production is anticipated to occur during the last week of September or the first week of October.

6. Catalyt EEM Update

Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Update	The consultants came and did the sampling during a week in the spring. The results are expected to come back by the end of the calendar year.
Other updates?	Working with DFO, catalyst was carefully monitoring Great Central Lake dam over the dry summer. Thanks to the rain that did come water levels held. Water temperatures in the Stamp were of some concern for salmon reaching 23 degrees at one point.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday November 19th, 2pm in the ACRD Board Room.

8. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.