

Air Quality Council Meeting: March 3rd, 2016

Notes from the meeting held on Thursday March 3rd, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the
ACRD Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni)
Penny Cote (ACRD)
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
Paul Hasselback (Medical Health Officer)
Debra (Island Health)
Janice Hill (ACRD Environmental Services)
Dave Jarrett (Community member)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Gary Swann (Community member)
Sarah Thomas (Chair)

Regrets: Judy Carlson
John McNabb (ACRD)
Andrew McGifford (ACRD Environmental Services)
Tim Pley (Fire Department)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)

1. Meeting Logistics

2015 Feedback	Thanks to everyone for the feedback received through the evaluations. Key Feedback: Want more speakers. Want more info/communication in general. We'll strive for that!
Sending alternates	It was also raised through the feedback that it would be helpful if members would send alternates if they are unable to attend.
Funding Updates	ACRD Grant discussions ongoing. Will be decided at the meeting held on the 4 th Wednesday of the month. Expect that MOE will also be able to come up with another \$5000 to support the work of the council.

2. Air Quality and Health

Air Quality and Health	Paul Hasselback gave a presentation on key components of air quality and health and discussed statistics around the observation and research showing that there are an excess of deaths following significant air quality events.
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Factors involved in improving air quality	<p>Regardless of how good air quality gets every improvement in air quality will lead to better health outcomes. There is no 'safe' level of air pollution.</p> <p>Air Quality Monitoring and Forecasting Health communication and Research Policy</p>
Air Quality and Health facts	<p>It is estimated that, in BC, 385 acute premature deaths and about 1000 hospital admissions annually are linked to poor air quality.</p> <p>More and more research is coming out about the connection between air quality and virtually all diseases.</p>

3. Tire Derived Fuel (Catalyst Presentation)

What is Tire Derived Fuel (TDF)?	<p>Tire Derived Fuel is a manufactured product that recycles old tires for use as fuel. Some of the metal is removed from the tires and the tires are chipped into 1.5 inch pieces.</p>
Why is it used over straight hog?	<p>A small amount of TDF is added to the power boiler to enable Catalyst to burn lower quality hog instead of burning oil or natural gas. This is primarily needed in the wetter winter months. The addition of the TDF increases the heat in the boiler and results in a more efficient burn and has been shown to decrease emissions.</p>
How much TDF is used?	<p>Averages out to about 2% over the 6 winter months. Air Emissions Permit allows for up to 5%.</p>
What is the impact of using TDF from an environmental perspective?	<p>Burning TDF has been seen to benefit the mill and environment in terms of lowering emissions from the Power Boiler. PM stack sampling results show a negligible or beneficial impact. Given the sulfur content in tires SO₂ emissions as a result of TDF are being examined through ambient air quality measurements (a 3-year program) and all levels recorded to date have been low. Zinc increased when using TDF. This is extracted and goes to the landfill.</p> <p>Levels of other metals were tested for and there was found to be negligible difference before and after TDF given the concentrations naturally found in trees.</p> <p>TDF decreased chlorinated dioxins and furans from the boiler. It was found that this was a result of the sulfur that produces SO₂. Of course some elements can not be tested for.</p> <p>The emissions trend over the past 20 years has been steadily down ward.</p>

Why doesn't Crofton use TDF when it's been found to be beneficial here?	Different technology used at the mill in Crofton. In fact, Crofton has a higher emissions rate per unit than Port Alberni.
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4. Wood Stove Exchange Program

Program Launch	2016 Woodstove Exchange Program to launched on February 1 st , 2016.
Current Status	At this time 9 out of 31 vouchers have been claimed.
Possible May event	It was discussed that an event in May might be good to tie in with the one year remaining on the city woodstove sunset clause (May 2017) and get people stacking wood in advance for next winter. This could be combined with the burn it smart workshop for this year.
National Media	There has been significant media coverage about residential woodsmoke in recent weeks. The local paper, Vancouver Sun, and the Globe and Mail and ran articles. http://www.vancouversun.com/health/wood+smoke+under+fire/11708413/story.html http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/home-and-garden/design/the-quest-for-cleaner-fire-why-its-time-to-rethink-our-favourite-way-to-get-warm/article28780027/

5. Backyard Burning

Progress Update	Backyard burning ban effective April 2016. City will be working on bylaw revision to include this. AQC to support them in this and see where alternatives get developed that can be promoted at the same time. Aiming for May to discuss possible backyard burn guidelines with the ACRD. Turns out that guidelines were already drafted previously so they are on file and we can work from those. Goal is to work on all of this and lead up to a big public education push in the fall to show people alternatives to burning etc. With regards to burning, an emissions inventory done in Cowichan found that 70% of PM2.5 emissions can be attributed to
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	woodsmoke (residential, backyard burning, land clearing, slash). If land clearing burning, earlier light up the better because of the nocturnal inversions. Best to burn between 11am and 3pm.
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6. CanTimber Update

Particulate Monitoring	A partisol PM2.5 sampler has been set up at Second Avenue and Bruce Street as part of their operational certificate from PAPA.
Current Status	The test and start up phase is ongoing. At this point expect they will be operational in 2 months time.
Air Emissions	<p>Reports of smoke have been reported by staff at APD and from people in the residential area near Cantimber. The start up phase is predicted to have more emissions than regular operations so this should ease up as operations fully commence. Wood is being used for start up. Would probably have been better to use natural gas for start up to reduce localized emissions.</p> <p>If people have concerns they should bring them to the Port Alberni Port Authority.</p>

Next Meeting – April 21st, 2016, 2pm, ACRD Board Room.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.