

Air Quality Council Meeting: October 13th, 2016

Notes from the meeting held on Thursday October 13th, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the ACRD Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni)
Judy Carlson (Community at large)
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Sarah Thomas (Chair)
Andrew McGifford (ACRD Environmental Services)
Gary Swann (Community member)
Dr. Paul Hasselback (Island Health)
David Wiwichar (PEAK. Guest.)
Jane F (Community guest)

Regrets: Tim Pley (Fire Department)
Cynthia Dick (Tseshah First Nation)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
John McNabb (ACRD)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Jade Yedia (Island Health)

Introductions and Membership

New AQC contact list was distributed.

Kazuhiro (Kaz) Takeuchi will be joining Stephanie as a new Alberni Environmental Health Officer. Kaz will join the AQC and trade off with Jade Yedia.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

The minutes from June 16th meeting of the Air Quality Council were accepted as distributed. Moved and seconded. Carried.

1. Cantimber Update

What is the current status?

Golder Investigation and Stack testing planned for first week of November.
PAPA is hosting an open house, October 13, 2016, 4:30pm at Echo Centre to share information about the testing plans. Encourage people to attend.

What has changed in the operations?

Will be connecting a secondary combustion chamber to control excess VOCs. Plan to burn charcoal.

What are withstanding concerns?

Will feed material be tested? What moisture content is being considered acceptable? Is there any salt contamination? What level of emissions will be considered acceptable?

Emissions experienced last March through June were unacceptable.

2. Backyard Burning Policy Unification

Land clearing air quality impacts

Cherry Creek land clearing air quality impacts again this fall. Seems as though there is a problem with the forecast. For the most part these burns seem to in compliance with the regulation but caused unacceptable levels of smoke on a few specific days. Complaints were received from John Howitt elementary as well as other members of the community. Encourage people to report to RAPP line if they are concerned. Call the Port Alberni fire department to report backyard fires and woodsmoke in the City of Port Alberni.

Comment from a pharmacist that they saw so many people who were impacted during the burn event in September and were dispensing more puffers than normal.

Bylaw News

- A Cumberland backyard burn ban is going forward.
- Provincial OBSCR (outdoor burning and smoke control regulation) updates are in the final draft stages. Expect to come into effect before the burn season next year.

ACRD Backyard burning Guidelines

ACRD Backyard burning Guidelines or bylaw have been discussed since 2011.

Andrew brought the draft memo from that time.

The board discussed the merits of moving forward with such a ban or guidelines at their board meeting October 12, 2016.

Interest but lack of staff time and the ability to monitor were identified as barriers.

Decision to move forward with education campaign in conjunction with AQC and do a mail out along with the utility bills in January.

For future consider a presentation to the ACRD.

Consider recommending that a bylaw enforcement budget line be added to the budget for this purpose.

Implementation Strategy for City Backyard burn ban

Education strategy needed. Do this in conjunction with ACRD education roll out.

Sarah to connect with Tim and Andrew about this.

3. Smoke Houses

Air Quality and Smokehouses

Interest from Tseshaht in more information on air quality and smokehouses.

BC Centre of Disease Control provided a comprehensive set of literature on the topic. This was forwarded to Tseshaht chief councillor for information.

Island Health is investigating further to see if the First Nations Health Authority has other resources and information which we can share with Tseshaht.

Dr. Hasselback reported that there is a **major scientific study** on **woodsmoke and health** that will be released in the Journal of Epidemiology next year. Funded by Health Canada this research was conducted out of Guelph University and links the generation of woodsmoke to specific health outcomes. This will have direct implications on policy. Stay tuned.

4. Alberni Valley Air Quality Report Follow Up

Where are we at?

Following Earle's presentation last spring education dissemination will be necessary for the public.

Promote the report.

Consider this in conjunction with Backyard burn and woodstove education campaigns.

5. Woodstove Exchange Update

What is the current voucher count?

All 31 vouchers have been assigned
19 of those are complete and the money dispersed.
12 vouchers remain to be received.

2017 Application

2017 Application was submitted in September. Expect to hear back in a couple of months.

Provincial Woodstove Regulation

New solid fuel burning appliance regulation (SFB DAR) in place now.

- Regulates the types of appliances which can be sold in BC (Harmonizes with US EPA regulation from Washington).
- Changes the definition of allowable fuels
- Stricter regulation for outdoor boilers.

Guidance on the new SFB DAR is available on the BC website:

http://www.bcairquality.ca/pdf/sfbdar_factsheet.pdf

http://www.bcairquality.ca/pdf/sfbdar_q-a.pdf

WETT Inspections

City moving out of the WETT Inspection business. Ask Tim to do

What is the plan going forward?	<p>a presentation on this at the next AQC meeting.</p> <p>What is the plan for 2017 sunset clause enforcement? Work with the City to see how the AQC can support this work.</p> <p>Complete Infographic Series from last year. Finalize City fire hall brochure to distribute.</p>
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6. 2016/2017 Work Plan

What is the plan for the coming year?	<p>Woodstove Research Project – Funded by Island Health Job Creation Partnership Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could train people to go around and train people to do backyard composting. <p>CSC/AQC Society Development</p>
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- We will invite Forest Industry Reps to the next meeting to discuss what practices they employ, slash burning, if they consider chipping, etc.
- Invite Dave McCormick and Michael Liu for January Meeting and schedule a tour of Cantimber. Decision to wait at this point until the plant is operational to have a tour.
- Invite CO's for future meeting. Perhaps March.

Next Meeting – November 17th, 2016, 2pm, ACRD Board Room.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.