

## Air Quality Council Meeting: Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the ACRD Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni)  
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)  
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)  
Earle Plain (MOE)  
Anna Lewis (Chair)  
Janis Hill (ACRD Staff)  
Gary Swann (Community member)  
Kelly Gilday (Fire Department)  
Keith Wyton (ACRD)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)  
Keith Hunter (Tseshaht First Nation)  
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)  
Judy Carlson (Community at large) arrived at 2:50

Regrets: Cynthia Dick (Tseshaht First Nation)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)

Introductions

Meeting called to order at 2:05

Approval of agenda with additions

### **1. VIU PRESENTATION - ERIC KROGH**

*Regional Air Quality Mapping Pilot Project*

*Erik Krogh, Ph.D., P.Chem.*

*Co-Director, Applied Environmental Research Laboratories*

*Department of Chemistry, Vancouver Island University*

The mobile mass spectrometry lab is unique in Canada as it has the ability to quantify and qualify air quality with its two mass spectrometers onboard. It has the ability to address informational gaps for multiple air quality parameters. It can identify size, types and sources of particulate matter and odourants.

The project timeline is from February 2018 through to March 2019. Erik would require support in principle in terms of funding by mid-January and a monetary commitment of \$5000 from the region.

### **Comments/conversation arising from presentation**

- Needs to be a poor air quality situation to optimize air quality snapshot that the van can provide (ie. Inversion situation). Due to the proximity to Nanaimo where the mobile van is housed there is flexibility with regards to the day that monitoring occurs. Erik is willing to work with the

air quality council to predetermined route, which could be primarily based on the previous route used when the nephelometer study was conducted.

- Could resolve the ongoing issue of the causation of the odour which permeates Port Alberni on occasion. As long as the van can get within reasonably close proximity it can measure the molecular level compounds and pinpoint the source. This is potentially an economic development component as odour is detraction for potential newcomers to the area.
- Could provide a before and after snapshot if city replaces sewage lagoon.
- Is there funding opportunity for funding through the BC Rural Dividend fund? Applications are due Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Anna to investigate.
- Since the regional district already supports AQC through grant in aid unsure as to further funding possible through regional district. Could the city be approached, Catalyst, Port Authority or the AQC take on a fundraising project?
- Earle suggested that potentially getting partial funds from the Ministry through the red zone funding.

Kelly Gilday moved, Chris Alemany seconded:

*“That Anna Lewis write letter to Port Alberni Port Authority with regards to the Regional Air Quality Mapping Pilot Project and request funds to sponsor.”*

## **2. ACRD RESOLUTION AND AQC INPUT REGARDING REGIONAL AIR QUALITY MAPPING PILOT PROJECT**

-resolution that was passed by the ACRD:

*“THAT the ACRD Board of Directors refer the request for support from Vancouver Island University for the Regional Air Quality Mapping Pilot project to the Air Quality Council requesting input on the benefits to the region from this project. “*

In response to letter, Gary Swann moved the motion, Keith Wyton seconded:

*“That the AQC supports in principle in the Regional Mapping Pilot Project and recognizes its inherent value to provide an accurate snapshot of the valley’s airshed.”*

## **3. UPDATES**

### **a) Cantimber ambient monitoring**

Earle

- very quiet, has been no meeting since late October
- Golder is to write air emissions permit
- PAPA has paid for ambient monitoring site which is currently running and collecting data
  - has ability to pick up emissions from marine vessels

### **b) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

Earle

- delegation consisting of Natalie Suzuki, Glen Okrainetz and Earle Plain (Ministry of Environment) presented on Nov. 27 to city council
- presented on issues pertaining to air quality in the Alberni Valley
- Port Alberni exceeds the national PM2.5 standards (after excluding impact of wildfires)
- Air Quality Management System provides the national benchmark

- Port Alberni is in the Georgia Strait Airshed
- Report out on achievement of standards which is on a 3 year cycle. 2013-2016 was last reporting period in which Port Alberni exceeded the allowable level of short-term PM2.5.
- Uses a colour coded management system in which Port Alberni falls into the red zone. The ministry's response is to provide extra support with the priority areas through: engaging local government, identifying information gaps, building on local air management plans and identifying ways to reduce emissions over time

c) **Red zone funding opportunities to assist with airshed planning** Earle

- When a city falls below national standards and becomes a red zone, a new type of funding can be made available which only exists for communities that are labeled as red.
- Examples of funding available to red zone are emission inventory work, hiring students to work on educational projects, support for community based social marketing looking at wood stove use and storage.
- Earle suggested that the AQC seriously consider looking at doing an emission inventory next fiscal year. This would end up with the province providing \$15 000 which is 50% of the average total project cost with the other half coming from the community. This is the key technical component when developing an airshed management plan.

d) **Community Lung Health Fair** Anna

- BC Lung open house was held at the legion, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 11-4.
- Andrew McGifford and Anna Lewis attended and personned an air quality booth.
- There was a consistent trickle of people. We engaged in discussion with approximately 35 people throughout our time at the booth. The following observations were made with the understanding that the group of people at the session would be interested in improvements to the bylaws and regulation to improve air quality in the Alberni Valley as most suffered from asthma or COPD.

- (a) **How to burn** – distributed Burn it Smart DVDs, spoke with people regarding city bylaw with regards to old stoves, woodstove exchange program details, exhibited how a moisture meter works, aging wood and proper storage.
- (b) **Improved regulation and bylaws** – there were approximately 10 conversations that would support stronger regulations to improve air quality.
- (c) **Options to burning** – a few did not know the yard waste and branches under 2” could go to the landfill for free, compost, etc. – educational materials.
- (d) **If there was a bylaw with regards to open burning** – advise what it would cost - cost per thousand or on an average house at \$300,000 of assessed value.

e) **Woodstove Exchange** Anna

- Received confirmation of funding for 2018 (a total of \$14,750; \$10,350 is allocated for 27 woodstoves @ \$250, 9 exchanges @ \$400 level; \$4000 salary for coordinator; \$400 for program materials).
- New to the program this year is the addition of a \$400 rebate if you upgrade from an old woodstove to an electric heat pump, pellet stove, or natural gas appliance. Need to decide on the amount of the contribution from the retailer and identify suppliers as this is a broader category than the current scope, which is focused solely on woodstove distributors.

- A total of 45 woodstove exchanges occurred this past season, the allotted 44 plus one more that had been rolled over from prior year.
- Division of tasks between ACRD and AQC coordinator. Anna met with Tracey Bond to discuss the duties between coordinator and ACRD in administering the program. Over the past couple years a majority of the duties drifted back to the ACRD and the preference is for this not to be the case. At this point in time Anna is prepared to take a more active role, ie. Updating all files, final report, vouchers, letters, etc.
- Retailer issues: there have been a couple issues with retailers this past season and this year the program will run from Jan.31 to June 30. If any vouchers are remaining the program will begin again in September with all new numbers. There were a couple of incidents of people complaining that they didn't know that the split for the rebate was \$250 from the RD and \$150 from the actual retailer. No guarantee that the retailer is honouring that part of the agreement so we decided to put onto the voucher that \$150 is to be provided by the retailer.

### **Comments**

- The city is offering a \$500 rebate for people to switch from oil to heat pump. City should incorporate city subsidy to include \$400 rebate from the RD for woodstove exchange if people are switching from woodstove to heat pump.

Keith Wyton moved and Chris Alemany seconded that:

*“Chris Alemany to bring motion forward to the Food Security and Climate Disruption committee so that they can recommend that the city rebate be expanded to include the same woodstove-to-heat pump upgrade as covered by the ACRD \$400 so they can be combined by the home owner.*

- f) **Vancouver Foundation Grant** Anna
- The ACRD had supported the grant application without providing the allocation of staff time; they can assist where required but understanding the process was going to be driven purely from the AQC.
  - Proposal is a scoping exercise to bring all existing stakeholders together, and identify gaps. It is solidifying a work plan to create an air quality management plan. The plan is pretty open in terms of deliverables. What is needed is a gap analysis, where we were, what has been done and what still needs to happen to improve air quality in the Alberni Valley. The project is to be completed by the end of May.
- g) **Presentation to Electoral Area Directors** Anna
- In response to Dr. Paul Hasselback's letter dated Sept. 25, 2017  
Re: Air Quality Related Health Concerns due to Wood burning
  - Dr. Paul Hasselback, Earle Plain and Anna Lewis will present
  - Meeting will occur Jan. 17, 1:30
- h) **Alberni Clayoquot Health Network (ACHN) – Table of Partners call for recruitment**
- Deadline is this Friday, Dec. 8th.
  - ACHN Mission: To speak with a collective voice on regional and local health issues by facilitating dialogue and understanding amongst citizens and stakeholders. The Network is a community driven mechanism that helps to build partnerships and capacity; share concerns, ideas and

resources and create innovative solutions that impact the social determinants of health and work towards sustainable healthy communities.

- ACHN has room for 2 to 3 new members, and looking for people who have interest in community health, a regional role/perspective and/or an ability to assist in knowledge and resource distribution
- requesting a verbal endorsement from AQC to put coordinator name forward
- Time allocated: third Wednesday of every month (excluding the summer) the table of partners meet for 3 hours.

Verbal endorsement granted.

**Next Meeting** - Thursday Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> ACRD board room 2-4.

**Adjourned** - Meeting adjourned at 4:15