

# Air Quality Council Meeting: Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, Feb. 1<sup>st</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)  
Keith Wyton (ACRD)  
Keith Hunter (Tseshah First Nation)  
Angela Wheeler on behalf of Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office) arrived at 2:14  
Judy Carlson (Community at large) arrived at 2:45

Regrets: Cynthia Dick (Tseshah First Nation)  
Kelly Gilday (Fire Department)  
Janis Hill (ACRD Staff)  
Gary Swann (Community member)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)

Introductions and acknowledgements of traditional territories

Meeting called to order at 2:05

Adoption of agenda with additions

Adoption of minutes from Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **1. UPDATES**

- a) **VIU: Regional Mapping Project** Anna
- 1000 contribution confirmed from PAPA
  - \$2000 contribution from MoE (now pending)
    - the funds for transfers is a separate envelope that is currently frozen and under review
  - \$2000 pending Tseshah application to FNHA
  - Erik Krogh decided to put a \$2000 grant in aid application in from VIU

Discussion around does the AQC need to look at approaching other potential funders? Yes.

-Larry Cross will put in request to Catalyst for \$2000 for VIU project given uncertainty of pending applications.

- b) **Woodstove Exchange** Anna
- all 2018 material updated:

- vouchers, brochures, newspaper ads
- article in AV News
- retailers contacted and agreements signed
- final report finished and submitted
- division of tasks between ACRD and AQC coordinator defined
- where is city at with amending their oil to gas program with including woodstoves? Chris Alemany commented that the Climate Change and Disruption Committee recommended that the City amend the city rebate program be expanded to include the same woodstove-to-heat pump upgrade so that rebate programs can be combined to increase savings to homeowner. May take a couple months before decision and actual implementation occurs.

Discussion emerged around how to implement city bylaw with regards to old woodstoves. Why did the city choose to stop doing WETT inspections? Is there a requirement for WETT inspectors to report if the stove is pre-1994? Can the city request results of WETT certification if not meeting bylaw requirements? Is it possible for the city to make it a requirement that stove comply for insurance purposes? (ie. When buying a house?) Are realtors letting their client base know of bylaw during the sale of a home? Anna to connect with Kelly Gilday around these questions and he can report back at the next meeting.

- c) **Grant in Aid application to the ACRD** Anna
  - an application for \$10,000 was submitted to the regional district by the AQS
  - application covers costs associated with the AQC chair
  
- d) **Alberni Clayoquot Health Network** Anna
  - Anna Lewis has filled a position at the Table of Partners
  - should leverage the profile of air quality impacts on human health
  
- e) **Presentation to Electoral Area Directors, Jan 17** Anna/Keith W.
  - Re: Air Quality Related Health Concerns due to Wood burning
  - Dr. Paul Hasselback, Earle Plain and Anna Lewis copresented
  - To note: there is strongest support from the two electoral areas which are directly adjacent to the city and have the highest populations of electoral areas in Port Alberni region.

Motion passed:

*THAT the Electoral Area Directors Committee recommend the ACRD Board of Directors move forward with adopting a sunset clause with regards to all wood burning stoves required to meet EPA standards by 2023 and investigate the development of optional regional bylaws regarding open burning and staff resources be used to present a bylaw for adoption in 2018.*

- This motion was supposed to be brought forward to the ACRD board of directors on Jan. 24 but due to tight staffing issues has been deferred until a later meeting.
  - Earle Plaine can potentially assist by providing template design. The bylaws need to be presented in a way that isn't onerous or costly to implement.
- f) **"The Future of Air Quality Management for Improved Public Health"** Anna/Earle
    - BC Lung conference, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver

- Anna Lewis and Earle Plain attending
- This year's theme "The Future of Air Quality Management for Improved Public Health" will focus on current and emerging issues in air quality management, including climate change, a changing public health burden and advances in atmospheric science. The workshop will also feature case studies on air quality management for both small and large cities locally and internationally. The presenters are the top researchers/experts in their field within the province and nationally.

g) **Response received by the ACRD from Federal Minister of Environment** Anna/Keith W.

- with regards to a letter sent to federal government supporting the province's proposed revisions to the open burning smoke control regulations.  
-Letter was sent to the federal government rather than the provincial government
- This will be on the next Board Agenda – February 14<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Bulldogs game: AQC to facilitate?** Anna

- ACRD sponsors Bulldogs; in exchange have a couple opportunities to promote programs within the ACRD at a game
- Have asked if AQC is interested one of the game night to promote wood stove exchange, etc.
- Anna would like to redo posters to be Port Alberni specific (the ones Earle brought)
- Anna will confirm date with Bulldogs and ACRD and let members of AQC know.

3. **Air Quality Council membership** Anna/Keith H.

- official invitation to the First Nations Health Authority to sit at the table  
-Karen Larson, M.Sc., CPHI(c), Environmental Health Officer, currently sits on the Cowichan Air Council
- Other individuals and or sectors which were identified were:  
-conservation officers; Ministry of Forests; Island Timberlands; Rhonda Morrison

Motion moved by Keith Hunter, seconded by Chris Alemany:

*"That Anna Lewis write a letter on behalf of the Air Quality Council to extend an official invitation to Karen Larson of the First Nations Health Authority inviting her to become a member of the Air Quality Council".*

4. **Vancouver Foundation grant: A Protocol for Collective Action: Steps towards an Airshed Management Plan for the Alberni Valley**

- Anna met with Sarah Thomas to discuss the original intention of this proposal and what her overall vision was.  
-the key components that Sarah had wanted to see delivered was the initial development of a strategic plan which development terms of reference, focusing on the nuances of First Nations government. She also wanted to investigate ways to make the funding of the AQS self sufficient.

- Through meetings with Cynthia Dick and Keith Hunter of the Tseshaht First Nation an outline of what needs to be included in the work plan was loosely developed.

### **Key Elements:**

The VF grant is a scoping exercise to identify and expand on key components of a strategic plan.

- Terms of reference: What is the role of each group/stakeholder? Who is missing from the table? How do all of these interact cohesively to move air quality platform forward?
- What are the identified targets? (with regards to reducing air emissions)  
-specific actions required
- Long term financial plan: how will this become self sustaining

Anna suggested the need to hire a consultant to start investigating the terms of reference and initiate a dialogue with the First Nation communities. Cynthia recommended that Keith Hunter be brought on to help facilitate this process. Keith has agreed.

### **Deliverables identified in application**

- Intention to co-lead framework development with Tseshaht First Nation
- Design overarching and community-based framework necessary to provide systemic change
- Refine a protocol for collective action
- Engage source emitters, public, local governments and other agencies

### **Tangible outcomes**

- increased knowledge of First Nations; capacity building for the FN
- First Nations become active stakeholders in air quality management process
- more accessible community information
- stakeholder of the AQC increases with the addition of the FNHA and potentially Hupacasath
- create the Terms of Reference
- put together viable plan for airshed management plan to go out to funders. The VF grant is a development grant which means AQS can apply for a larger multiyear grant with regards to creating an airshed management plan (this would fall under the Vancouver Foundations Environment or Health and Social Development grant categories which are up to 50% multiyear funding. Two stage funding process the initial being a project overview and if invited then a full proposal for project). Spoke with Vancouver Foundation and they will be releasing intake dates for 2018 by mid February.

### **Work Plan**

1. Create the terms of reference
  - vision, objectives, scope and deliverables (i.e. what has to be achieved)
  - stakeholders roles and responsibilities (i.e. who will take part in it)
  - resource, financial and quality plans (i.e. how it will be achieved)
  - work break down and schedule (i.e. when it will be achieved)
  - should potentially include: success factors, risks and constraints

2. Present to the 2 councils independently: Hupacasath and Tseshaht
3. Hold a community forum with both FN and broader community
  - Can hold at the Tseshaht Great Room
  - Earle/Paul/other resource people?
  - need to build clear objective and outcomes
4. Bring more people on board at the AQC to operate as the driving force behind air management strategy

General comments that came out of Vancouver Foundation Discussion:

- how to build up First Nations knowledge with regards to air quality
- Gather information; meet with key stakeholders to learn more about systemic issue; begin to formulate model
- in theory First Nation supports air quality initiatives but there can be an issue in practice (need to observe cultural practices, ie. to be sensitive to smokehouses) but could positively impact perhaps the forestry sector under the direction of First Nations.
- Community storage of dry wood
- How to deal with the high levels of poverty within the First Nation communities
- Issues of indoor air quality due to mold, inadequate housing
- Need a cohesive strategy in the valley to build synergy which could be viewed as a constructive reconciliation process.
- Look to Cowichan for example of best practices or lessons learned. Only community currently on the Island with an air management strategy. Similarities between our communities. (Quesnel, Williams Lake, Prince George also have strategies).
- Cowichan First Nation have experienced barriers to some of the programs, ie. Have no garbage pickup so have waste/management issues and tend to burn
- What is the carrying capacity for healthy air within the Alberni basin? This needs to be clearly identified to be able to measure the cumulative impacts of industry
- Is it possible to create more of a granting system for the woodstove exchange for the FN community as it can be very difficult to come up with money upfront

## 5. NEXT MEETING

-Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2 pm in the ACRD boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50