

MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

MARCH 1, 2018, 2pm
ACRD Board Room

Present: Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Anna Lewis (Chair)
Gary Swann (Community member)
Keith Hunter (Tseshah First Nation)
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)
Judy Carlson (Community at large)
Peter Mazey (FNHA, Environmental Health Officer on behalf of Karen Larson)

Regrets: Cynthia Dick (Tseshah First Nation)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
Kelly Gilday (Fire Department)
Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni)
Janice Hill (ACRD Staff)
Keith Wyton (ACRD)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)

Meeting called to order at: 2:04

1. WELCOME – round table introductions, acknowledgement of traditional territories Quick intros based on questions that had been sent out prior to meeting:

The questions for consideration were:

- *As a member of the AQC what do you bring to the table? (Ie. Do you have the ability to influence change or promote air quality at another table? What do you bring back to your organization from the AQC meetings? Does your organization/group you represent contribute to the cumulative impacts of air pollution in the valley? What steps do you take to ensure impacts are properly mitigated? Where is more clarity/assistance/support needed?)*
- *Can you assist in acquiring and interpreting relevant data useful to the AQC? (Ie. Can the Health Authority access most recent relevant stats of health of population, specifically respiratory disease in young and elderly and assist in interpreting this data? How does Alberni compare to other regions?)*
- *Do you or your organization have the ability to leverage funds, access to granting opportunities, letters of support, etc. ?*

Anna Lewis – Chair of AQC. Holds multiple contracts primarily in the field of agriculture and has pulse on the local agricultural community. Base understanding of key issues of air quality and enthusiasm to create airshed management strategy. Sits on the table of partners for the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network. Ability to get information to other organizations.

Dave Jarret – Community at large. Started off interested in water but has been drawn into air quality. Sits on the board of the Alberni Community Foundation. Very interested in being involved in VIU project and would like to investigate how to link in health parameters.

Peter Mazey - First Nations Health Authority: Environmental Health Officer. Deals with the Hupacasath First Nation. Sits on the working group of Cantimber. He brings support for air quality and first nation education.

Keith Hunter: Tseshaht First Nation. Acts as a liason between AQC and Tseshaht. Tseshaht contributes to the cumulative impacts of air quality (ie. Woodstoves and forestry operations). Has the ability to identify gaps and asking questions. Working on the Vancouver Foundation project.

Larry Cross – Catalyst. Catalyst represents a significant point source of air pollution. He is able to provide updates on routine monitoring data and Catalyst operates the PM 2.5 station on Alberni Elementary. From the AQC he brings back information and the views of a cross section of Port Alberni’s population.

Earle Plain - Ministry of Environment. Has been involved with the AQC since 2008. His primary role is as a scientific advisor and he works as a bridge between local government and ministry. The ministry does have the ability to dedicate some dollars to fund the role of chair. He can provide eyes and ears for local government as required.

Gary Swann – Community at large. He was a director for the Environmental Coalition. and knows a lot of people. Is involved with the community forest. Concerned about wood burning versus letting it decompose in the bush. Ecologically minded.

(Due to absences, Anna compiled the following with regards to the city and regional district).
City of Port Alberni – Active Participation in the AQC, firehall directly involved with education and outreach, meeting space, printing and promotion.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Grant in aid which provides core funds to the Alberni Air Quality Society, active participation in the AQC, AQC website hosted on the ACRD website, meeting space.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was adopted with the addition of update of official invitations to sit on AQC.
The minutes were adopted as presented.

2. UPDATES

- **VIU: Regional Mapping Project**
 - update with regards to funding. VIU project has reached \$5000 necessary to commence.
 - \$1000: PORT ALBERNI PORT AUTHORITY
 - \$2000: TSESHAHT/FIRST NATION HEALTH AUTHORITY
 - \$2000: CATALYST

VIU will engage with project partners over the next two months and have tentatively set aside one week of intensive sampling in summer and winter season. They indicate sampling will be done in July and December but will discuss with partners and collaborators in advance. Additional short targeted sampling may be interspersed depending on conditions.

They will use the route that was used for the nephelometer work as a starting point. The route can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/air/reports-pub/port-alberni-aq-report.pdf> VIU will likely expand on this depending on advice and guidance from AQC and others. Dr. Erik Krogh would like to sit down and have a planning session with a few key representatives perhaps in early April to discuss sampling priorities and plans. Anna Lewis, Earle Plain, Dave Jarrett, Keith Hunter and Larry Cross all indicated interest in being involved with VIU process.

Some discussion around protocol for press release and possibly connecting with Nancy Wilmont from Shaw to do a TV segment. Would do sometime when mobile van is in Port Alberni.

- **Grant in Aid application to the ACRD**
 - At the Committee of the Whole the Board approved the \$10,000 grant-in-aid request from the AAQS to fund the position of AQC chair.
- **3 Motions passed by ACRD Committee of the Whole**
 - At the Board meeting three motions were approved:
 - 1) Develop a draft bylaw to regulate wood burning stoves and appliances and include in the draft bylaw a requirement for all wood burning stoves and appliances to meet EPA standards by 2023.
 - 2) Investigate options available to Regional Districts for regulating of open burning.
 - 3) That staff resources be allocated in 2018 to complete these two projects.Earle can assist in providing draft templates for ACRD to utilize. Has good insight into pros and cons of various options.
- **Alberni Clayoquot Health Network**
 - supportive of the creation of airshed management strategy
 - some of the stakeholders at the Table of Partners would appreciate materials for public distribution.
- **“The Future of Air Quality Management for Improved Public Health”**
 - annual BC Lung conference, Feb. 5th in Vancouver
 - Anna Lewis and Earle Plain attended
 - link to presentations can be found at <https://bc.lung.ca/protect-your-lungs/air-quality-lung-health/air-quality-health-workshop>
 - Case studies ranging from smaller communities such as Prince George and Canterbury Environment, NZ to larger communities such as London, EN and San Francisco all spoke to initiatives and challenges.
 - Most interesting was presentation from NZ which 95% of PM emissions are linked to burning wood. They have initiated various campaigns with limited success ie. Smokeless burning. Key

point was that the most effective tools were community based social marketing to provide awareness, supports and have it stick. Awareness does not equal behavioural change and helping the vulnerable is key.

-they utilized a couple of interesting techniques: Grumpy Cat, having a master firemaker come and show you how to properly burn, dropping off kindling and then coming back after a couple days to connect with homeowner around how to most effectively start and maintain fire to minimize pollution.

-there was discussion around the affects of climate change with regards to air quality with the biggest foreseeable impact being the increase in wildfires.

-there were a few examples of where trying to lower the impacts of climate change has actually increased air pollution. Most relevant example being the push for gasoline direct injected (GDI) vehicles which increases fuel economy by up to 15% but now shows that emissions are 30% higher.

- **Bulldogs game, Saturday, Feb. 24th**

-Anna Lewis attended to promote the woodstove exchange and better burning techniques.

-several conversations initiated. Full spectrum of comments ranging from "I am old school and love to burn; burn everything in my fireplace, everything in my backyard..." to the people that had been in the hospital a couple times this past month due to respiratory issues that they directly attributed to wood smoke and agricultural burns.

-Connection made with Todd Flaro the WETT inspector that did over 200 inspections last year. High energy and enthusiastic, he asked if we had any more Burn It Smart DVDs as he wanted to distribute and leave one with every person he did an inspection for. He was given approximately 75 DVDs. He would be a good person to lead a BURN IT SMART workshop as he is super knowledgeable and enthusiastic.

-handed out 5 moisture meters to people that burn primarily with wood and wanted one.

-a few people were interested in the Wood stove exchange, most people seemed interested in moving away from wood and looking into natural gas or electric heat pump.

-In conversation with Tali (Bulldogs business manager) he would like to have the Bulldogs do more in the classroom and interested in having the bulldogs lead by example: promote recycling, clean air, local food, etc. May be an opportunity to get some age appropriate/grade appropriate educational material into the schools.

- **Official Invitations to Sit at the AQC: FNHA, MFLNR**

-Karen Larsen of the First Nations Health Authority was accepted an invitation to sit at the AQC.

-Rhonda Morrison of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development: will receive final minutes of the AQC meetings and if there is a community forum/stakeholder engagement piece the MFLNR ministry would be formally invited to attend.

3. Vancouver Foundation grant: A Protocol for Collective Action:

Steps towards an Airshed Management Plan for the Alberni Valley

-Anna and Keith to present to Tseshaht Chief and Council on March 8th (Was supposed to be Feb. 22nd).

-work plan to be developed after presentation

-Vancouver Foundation grant end date can be extended to July 2018

4. City bylaw implementation and effectiveness

- how can the AQC help to get the message out to folks regarding the sunset clause and how they can take advantage of the WS exchange program to help with the transition to a new certified appliance.

- The removal clause is an important one that the AQC should ensure gets out to realtors and insurance folks.

-the language of the bylaw is currently under investigation to ensure that it was written in a manner that allows potential enforcement as a last resort. There needs to be a public engagement process and education in this area.

5. Next meeting and identifying relevant presentations

May 3rd 2pm in the ACRD boardroom

Suggested presentations could include:

-Cindy Linse: Cowichan Airshed Roundtable

-Ken Taekema: Fire Centre Manager, Coastal Fire Centre

-Todd Flaro: WETT inspector

-Earle Plain, MOE: on Stats on Air Quality for 2017; purple air sensors

-Larry Cross, Catalyst: on findings of 2017 Sustainability Report (if it has come out)