

# MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

JUNE 12, 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)  
Judy Carlson (Community at large)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)  
Keith Wyton (ACRD)  
Via phone: Jade Yehia (Island Health)  
Via phone: Gethsemane Luttrell (on behalf of Karen Larsen, First Nations Health Authority)

Regrets: Kelly Gilday (Fire Department)  
Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)  
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)

Meeting called to order at: 2:03

## 1. WELCOME – acknowledgement of traditional territories

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

-Addition of discussion of letter received today from the Citizen's Stewardship Coalition and points that emerged from their meeting, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 3. UPDATES

- VIU: Regional Mapping Project Anna  
-Dr. Erik Krogh and PhD students scouted the area including locations for both mobile and stationary deployments including the Port Authority lands, Catalyst, the landfill, wastewater treatment facility, waterfront area and main traffic corridors. A draft proposed route is attached. See Appendix A.  
-VIU met with Tseshaht to present the project and better understand their concerns. They will provide access and are developing a document with them to outline a separate data management and communications plan.  
-Erik is planning on following up with the City re a presentation and/or press release.

*After reviewing the route plan main points that emerge from AQC stakeholders:*

*- With Bernadette Wyton's initial nephelometer route including quite a bit of the Cherry Creek area, Gary Swan proposed that the route could incorporate more of this area as it would allow for some comparisons. Will propose that winter sampling can prioritize the Cherry Creek region in the route.*

*-Keith Wyton wanted it noted that having the data that is collected on the Tseshaht FN for their exclusive use raises interesting conundrums as it defeats the idea of a community approach to air quality or a regional air mapping project if all sample data is not shared or included in final document and/or community presentation.*

*-Winter months is when the tire burning of the mill occurs.*

*-Sample at the onsite treatment plant at Catalyst.*

- Woodstove Exchange Anna
  - only two completed exchanges thus far. 1 for the \$250 voucher and 1 for the \$400 voucher. June 30<sup>th</sup> is final day for exchanges before summer and was set to resume after Labour Day weekend but due to the low exchanges will try to move up to August 21<sup>st</sup>. Will promote heavily at the Fall Fair event.
  - Anna to connect with retailers, WETT inspectors to encourage promotion of WSE and to ask if number of woodstove replacements has gone down in comparison to prior years.
  
- Recap of community engagement/stakeholder engagement pieces Anna
  - and where the Vancouver Foundation project is at.
  - 1.5 people attended the community engagement piece
  - 8 people were at the stakeholder session although 14 had RSVPed and two of those that came by had not RSVPed.
  - Due to low attendance of engagement pieces Genevieve is trying a different tactic and hosting three coffee house sessions as well as two surveys to engage more people. Dates for coffeehouse: Wednesday June 20 Steampunk Café 5-6pm; Monday June 25, Burde Beans 12-1pm; Wednesday June 27, Burde Beans 12-1pm
  - Final report due: July 31st
  
- 4. **Firesmart Grant: City and ACRD** Anna

"The ACRD and the City of Port Alberni received grant funding from UBCM to provide Fire Smart initiatives throughout the valley. These initiatives include community presentations on how to prepare your property to prevent wildfire from spreading to your home. This work is done in cooperation with the BCWS." Kelly will relay information as to dates for community engagement as they come up so we can spread the word.
  
- 5. **Presentation to Catalyst Port Alberni Operations** Larry
  - Power boiler particulate (quarterly test) – continues to be low ~ 3-5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Power boiler dioxins (annual pair of tests) – Dec. 2017 tests at the low end of historical range
  - TDF (chipped tires) continues to be used to support combustion of wetter hog fuel in winter months ~ 2000 tonnes / year
  - Greenhouse gas emissions (reported Federally & Provincially each year)
    - 2017 CO<sub>2</sub>e similar to 2016
  - Shortage of hog fuel earlier this year resulted in burning some additional natural gas; this does add incentive for steam use saving ideas
  - Achieved a 5-10% reduction in “fibre loss” from paper machines to effluent treatment system (saves fibre & \$\$)
  - 21% increase in BC permit fees (for effluent, air emissions & landfill)
    - (last time they were increased was 2006). Total is now ~ \$125,000/year.

- Successfully achieved registration to the latest 14001:2015 ISO standard for Environmental Management Systems ; standard now refers to Interested Parties such as this AQC, not just laws and legal requirements
- Progressing 10 year Dam Safety Review for the Great Central Lake dams; no significant issues identified
- Working with ACRD and other stakeholders on management of the weir on the Sproat River (re winter flooding both lakeshore and downstream)
- The 2 mills in the US that were acquired in 2015 have been sold (Biron, Wisconsin and Rumford, Maine)
- Mill has a Total Mill Outage scheduled for October 2018  
-2 day shutdown of everything including water and steam to allow repairs/inspections; last done 2013
- Crofton – application to pump water “over their weir/dam” to maintain flow in the Cowichan River in dry years
- Powell River – plan to sink one of the historical “hulk” breakwater ships for a dive site
- Catalyst is a private company as of last year
- Port Alberni operation currently has 2 paper machines
- Trialing production paper for food industry (ie. Wrappers for fast food)

*Discussion that emerged from presentation:*

*-Anna: the last couple months there seems to be a frequent low stack velocity and related lingering pollution. Any idea what is going on with the Catalyst operations that may be contributing to this? A few complaints related to odour the past little while. While unsure what may be contributing to this and the smell that may correlates to the mill activity, it is possible that if the plume is cooler the plume rise is lower.*

*-Keith: Does Catalyst intend to purchase the 30 acres across from the Barclay Hotel for another potential sawmill? Larry can direct question to the appropriate person as he cannot comment.*

*-Gary: spoke to the issue of forest debris being burnt. In a recent webinar on biodynamics and permaculture a third of the time was spent talking about water in the forests and the main idea was that you should keep material around as long as you can and let wood decompose naturally. Would be interesting to see a forest try to utilize their wood through the creation of swales (depressions along a contour) and berms and see what the results are. Don't remove waste by burning as eventually that wood does turn into soil.*

## 6. Cantimber Biotech termination

Earle

The Port Alberni Port Authority issued a press release May 31<sup>st</sup>. See Appendix B. Cantimber Biotech and PAPA have officially terminated their relationship and the biochar facility will not move ahead.

The CSC (Citizen Stewardship Coalition) met June 10th to go over the Cantimber Biotech termination and out of that gathering there emerged a few points that are worthy of mentioning and potentially taking a closer look at. Points B and C could potentially be integrated into airshed management plan.

Some of the points that came out of gathering:

- a) Call for a project proposal review policy (front and hind end)

- b) Call for an industrial park that is properly sited (away from residences and the waterfront) for industry that doesn't require water access.
- c) Call for land use planning principles that reflects the public desire for more habitation, amenity and citizen access to the waterfront.
- d) Call for better leadership and a more democratic governance for our port.
- e) Thank Earle Plain, Paul Hasselback and the AQC for their vigilance and concern. See Appendix C for letter from coalition.

*Further discussion that emerged:*

*-the idea of a light industrial/industrial park being sited/identified through a community planning process would provide incoming industry some assurance that they can move forward with their project. The Bainbridge area and the Link Mill site by Cameron Shop towards Bamfield were both referenced.*

*-Cheryl MaKay from the Ministry of Economic Development is interested in developing a lessons learned document. Anna believes that Keith Hunter was working on something related to this for the FLNR and will follow up on.*

**7. Securing funding for the air emissions inventory to occur.**

Earle/Anna

- Province has set aside \$20,000 for Port Alberni but still need to come up with \$10,000. Earle does not know if this opportunity will arise again. Key technical piece of airshed management strategy.

-Anna has identified a few grants which may be applicable:

1)Coastal Community Credit Union: Building Healthier Communities grant. The primary purpose of the BHCF is to provide onetime financial support or 'seed money' for initiatives that contribute to building healthier island communities. Up to \$5,000. Next intake is July 15th

2)Plan H. (doesn't directly relate but could be used for community forum and continued work on airshed strategy) Grants of up to \$5,000 each are available for up to 15 local governments working with health authorities and other partners to better understand priority areas and local needs and to take action to improve the built and/or natural environments in their community or region. The ACRD, pending a resolution, would apply on behalf of the Air Quality Society.

3)First Nations Health Authority Contaminants Funding: Brandy from Hupacasath had recommended the AQC investigate this further.

4)Alberni Valley Community Foundation timing does not work but something to keep in mind. Due in February with cheques coming out the end of May.

5)If grants and fundraising come short some of the funds designated towards wage of AQC chair could be utilized.

6)Green Infrastructure Projects: Eligible projects will support public infrastructure, defined as a tangible capital asset primarily for public use and benefit. To be eligible, projects must meet at least one of the following outcomes:

- Increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and stormwater
- Increased access to potable water
- increased capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants

-Jade is going to check into if this grant is actually applicable to the AQC as after initial reading seems more water and building associated infrastructure.

*-Earle needs some sort of confirmation that Port Alberni will be able to attain \$10,000 by November at the latest. The earlier the better to ensure earmarked provincial funds to not get frozen or reallocated.*

**8. Direction and Focus of AQC chair for the next couple months.**

- Plan H grant, Coastal Community Grant; increased social media outreach; VF; Fall Fair; development of RD open burning bylaws and WSE; outreach to retailers for heavier promotion of WSE; development of brochures and materials; potentially connecting with SD70 and Bulldogs around air quality; fall forum

**9. AQC booth at Fall Fair (Sept. 6-9<sup>th</sup>)**

- could potentially combine a booth with the ACRD (perhaps they will have emergency response coordinator)
- heavy promotion of the woodstove exchange
- outdoor burning bylaw changes for regional district
- survey and associated material
- Anna can person partially but also personning the Agriculture table so would need some assistance if not sharing a space with the ACRD.

**10. Fall Forum**

- end of October was suggested but looking at the municipal elections it appears as if mid-November would be a better timeframe
- will look at incorporating into the Plan H grant
- speaking with Paul Hasselback he would like about 3 months lead time to ensure that he can be present

**11. Next Meeting and presentation**

- Most likely Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>. Will send out email mid-August to AQC members
- Jade Yeha offered to do presentation on health data and associated granularity

Meeting adjourned at 4:10

## **APPENDIX A**

DRAFT Route Plan  
For *Regional Air Quality Mapping Pilot Project (2018/19)*

### **Dates:**

Five (5) sampling days in July/August including early mornings during high pressure conditions.  
Five (5) sampling days in Dec/January including some early evenings during cold dry conditions.

### **Fixed Locations:**

Tourist Info (Alberni Hwy & Port Alberni Hwy junction)  
Port Alberni Elementary School (Helen & Arrowsmith)  
Waterfont Park (Johnston & Victoria Quay)  
Catalyst (Stamp Ave)  
Harbour Quay Pier (Argyle)  
Port Alberni Port Authority (Harbour Rd)  
ACRD Landfill (Landfill Rd)  
City wastewater treatment facility lagoons

### **Drive Routes (East side of inlet):**

Follow Alberni Hwy to Johnston  
Right on River Rd to Falls St  
Right on Falls to Malabar  
Right on Malabar to Beaver Creek  
Right on Beaver Creek to River Rd  
River Rd to Victoria Quay to Roger  
Left on Roger to Stamp Ave  
Right on Stamp Ave to Harbour Rd  
Left on Ship Creek to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to Argyle  
Right on Argyle to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave to Neill St  
Left on Neill St to 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Left on 10<sup>th</sup> Ave to Burde St  
Left on Burde St to 4<sup>th</sup>  
Right on 4<sup>th</sup> to Maitland St  
Right on Maitland St to 6<sup>th</sup>  
Right on 6<sup>th</sup> St to Bute  
Left on Bute to 8<sup>th</sup>  
Left on 8<sup>th</sup> to Roger St  
Right on Roger to 10<sup>th</sup>  
Right on 10<sup>th</sup> to Redford  
Left on Redford to Port Alberni Hwy back to Tourist Info

### **Drive Routes (West side of inlet):**

Fixed locations only at Landfill and WWTP facility

**Contacts for site access:**

**Port Alberni Port Authority**

David McCormick, Director Public Relations, 250-723-5312

[dmccormick@alberniport.ca](mailto:dmccormick@alberniport.ca)

Ron Kyle, Operations Manager, 250-723-5312 or 250-731-5437

[rkyle@alberniport.ca](mailto:rkyle@alberniport.ca)

**Catalyst Paper**

Larry Cross, Manager Environment, 250-724-7889 or 250 735-0426

[Larry.cross@catalystpaper.com](mailto:Larry.cross@catalystpaper.com)

**Landfill**, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

Doug Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer, ACRD or designate

[dholmes@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:dholmes@acrd.bc.ca)

**Wastewater Treat Plant**, City of Port Alberni

Tim Pley, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Port Alberni or designate

[Timothy\\_pley@portalberni.ca](mailto:Timothy_pley@portalberni.ca)

**Waterfront Quay**, City of Port Alberni

Tim Pley, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Port Alberni or designate

[Timothy\\_pley@portalberni.ca](mailto:Timothy_pley@portalberni.ca)

**Fire Hall** (10<sup>th</sup> & Bute)

Kelly Gilday, Chief

**Tseshah FN**

Darren Mead-Miller, Executive Director, 250-724-1225 or 250-735-0260

[executivedirector@tseshaht.com](mailto:executivedirector@tseshaht.com)

**Project Contact Personnel:**

Dr. Erik Krogh, Co-Director Applied Environmental Research Laboratories,  
Vancouver Island University

Dr. Nick Davey, Research Associate, Applied Environmental Research Laboratories, Vancouver Island  
University

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Notice of Termination of The Licence of Occupation from the Port Authority to Cantimber Biotech Inc.**

The Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) is disappointed to announce that the Licence of Occupation and, with it, the efforts to achieve an Operating Permit, with Cantimber Biotech Inc. (Cantimber) has been terminated .

After much research and efforts among PAPA, the City, British Columbia Ministry of Environment and many community stakeholders, including local small businesses, the Company achieved an agreement in May, 2015 to create and operate an activated carbon manufacturing facility in one of the Port's storage warehouses. The goal was to utilize wood waste that remains from area logging operations – much of it burned off every year, harming our air shed – into a value-added commodity product used for many environmentally-beneficial activities, such as water filtration and natural fertilizer. However, concerns about potential adverse air quality and health impacts arose during the company's operational commissioning trials resulting in the ceasing of operations in June 2016.

The Port authority invested a significant amount of its own resources to engage community partners and contract Golder & Associates to conduct a thorough operational review. PAPA invested these resources on behalf of our shared priorities with the community for a healthy environment and economic development. The result of Golder's review was a report completed in December of 2016 listing 21 recommendations. This report was shared with and vetted by community partners, including BC Ministry of Environment, Vancouver Island Health Authority, First Nations Health Authority and the City of Port Alberni, in December of 2016, listing 21 recommendations. The recommendations needed to be implemented before a new, revised permit to operate would be issued to Cantimber by PAPA.

Unfortunately, after more than a year of additional support, encouragement and best efforts by PAPA, Cantimber was unable to meet the requirements to operate. Therefore, the Port and the company have mutually agreed to terminate the licence of occupation. The result of this decision is that the facility will be dismantled and assets made available for sale in accordance to due process.

The Port thanks the community and partners for your patience, interest and contributions to our efforts to foster economic development while ensuring our health and safety. We will continue to fulfill our mandate to facilitate economic and community development as we work to support the diversity, transition and prosperity of our community, region and country.

For more information please contact:

Zoran Knezevic:  
President & CEO  
Port Alberni Port  
Authority  
Ph: 250-723-5312  
E: [zknezevic@alberniport.ca](mailto:zknezevic@alberniport.ca)

---

## APPENDIX C

### Citizens Stewardship Coalition

June 12, 2018

Air Quality Council of Port Alberni  
Earle Plain  
Paul Hasselback

Dear Earle, Paul, and AQC Members,

On June 10, 2018 fourteen people including all of the directors of the Citizens Stewardship Coalition gathered to acknowledge the termination of the Cantimber project and consider possible helpful actions that might emerge from the Cantimber experience.

There was a shared feeling of relief to be released from further grappling with Cantimber operations. There was also a shared feeling of gratitude for the constructive effort so many brought to the issue.

The Citizens Stewardship Coalition would like to thank the Air Quality Council for the firm direction and forbearance offered during the Cantimber Controversy and for their ongoing commitment to airshed management on behalf of our community.

The Citizens Stewardship Coalition would also like to thank Earle Plain and Paul Hasselback for the effort and vigilance they maintained through the extended period of difficulties arising from the Cantimber project. Their wisdom, diplomacy, and commitment to good air quality and health is exemplary,

Many thanks to all of you on behalf of the Citizens Stewardship Coalition,

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the letter 'K' in a dark grey color.

Keith Wyton, President