

# MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

DECEMBER 6th, 2018, 2pm

ACRD Board Room

Present: Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)  
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)  
Anna Lewis (Chair)  
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)  
Judy Carlson (Community at large)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)  
Ron Corbeil (City of PA)  
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)  
Jade Yehia (Island Health) via phone

Regrets: Representative from Fire department  
Mike Irg (ACRD staff)  
Karen Larsen (FNHA)  
Earle Plain (MOE)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)

Guests: Chris Alemany (Community Member)  
David McCormick (Port Alberni Port Authority)

Meeting called to order at 2:02

## 1. WELCOME

- acknowledgement of the traditional territories
- roundtable of introductions

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ron Corbeil moved to adopt agenda as presented. Gary Swann seconded. All in favour.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Nov. 1st, 2018

Note there has been a name change as it was pointed out it is Shannon rather than Sarah who is the Plan H coordinator.

Gary Swann moved to adopt minutes as adapted. Dave Jarrett seconded. All in favor.

## 3. PRESENTATION: Dr. Nick Davey and Larissa Richards (VIU): Regional Air Quality Mapping Project

The preliminary findings of summer sampling and proposed winter sampling route were presented. Sampling began this summer with the following objectives:

- Investigate the association between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter sources
- Support strategic policy objectives related to Clean Air and sustainability
- Promote public awareness, education and innovation related to air quality
- Map air quality variations over time and space in interactive digital format.

The summer field campaign was comprised of over 80 hours of data collected over the summer sampling. The route took approximately 2.5 hours to drive. Findings showed low level of VOCs; nothing that was of concern even at identified point sources. One day of sampling showed the impact on the Port Alberni airshed of forest fires that were in Nanaimo which showed high particulate matter spread evenly throughout the valley. One large spike of PM<sub>2.5</sub> was attributed to driving on a gravel road.

VIU has not yet confirmed when the van will be doing winter sampling. The plan is to do allocate 5 days in Dec/Jan in which they will be targeting morning/evenings for woodsmoke (7-10am, 5-9 pm). They will follow previous study route (2013 utilizing a nephelometer) with some modifications. Cold, clear days will best show the results pertaining to woodsmoke particulate matter.

A press release was done for summer campaign. The AQC recommended doing a press release for the winter sampling as well. The city and regional district should both be offered the option of requesting a presentation but be formally invited to the community engagement piece set for the spring.

General discussion:

*Dave McCormick commented that the First Nations communities should be directly presented to on their territory. Best to engage chief and council. VIU responded that they will be doing a similar presentation for Tseshaht chief and council.*

*Jade Yehia: What is the benchmark for comparison? How do you deal with the absence of regulations. VIU responded that for purpose of study have been looking at what is there. What they will be doing with data is to see what is of interest and can then dive deeper. For the compounds that are regulated one can use the mass spectrometer and then measure against regulations. VOC signatures are put together and then a fingerprint for the airshed is developed; data is both qualitative and quantitative.*

*Dave Jarret: Alberni Elementary data is spiking typically in the middle of the night and then it is gone by 6am. What is the pervasive nature of the particulate matter? This would mean driving around the rest of town throughout the middle of the night not during the identified timeframe.*

*Gary Swann: Would like to see the winter route extend out Cherry Creek all the way to Horne Lake Road. With regards to the methane emission and the fact that it is a greenhouse gas this should be highlighted to the ACRD with regards to the landfill emissions and moving forward with the development of the new composting project.*

*Dave McCormick: One of the things identified in the initial goal of the mapping project was the source of the "Port Alberni smell"? Any sense of what the potential source is? VIU: At this point it is still too early to comment but the potential first teaser was there was a Sulphur compound identified as coming from the mill and lagoon, while methane was identified at the lagoon. Methane is known to be high in wetland community due to anaerobic activity. The new*

*treatment lagoon will follow the same process, but efficiency of controls is going to be higher. A number of landfills are harvesting methane and capture and using to power.*

#### **4. UPDATES**

- Woodstove Exchange

Anna

The ACRD has facilitated 14 of a possible 36 exchanges throughout the 2018 season. The breakdown of exchanges was: 10 of 27 vouchers completed at the \$250 level; 4 of 9 vouchers completed at the \$400 level.

The Clear the Air 2019 Woodstove Exchange (currently awaiting signing of transfer agreement) has received confirmation that the ACRD proposal was successful receiving \$20,650. Breakdown as follows:

- \$14350 for woodstove exchange incentives,
  - requested \$15,000 (with reduced funding this translates to 20- \$500 rebates and 17 - \$250 rebates with a shortfall of \$100). \$500 rebates are for any stove minimum of 5 years switching away from woodstoves to a cleaner source of heat. (I.e. heat pump, oil furnace).
  - if we include the rollover of remaining funds from 2018 WSE this adds another \$6500
- \$1500 to support advertising the program,
  - The \$1500 requested is to kick off a spring and fall campaign utilizing radio ads and potentially two Impress newspaper articles which are featured online and currently have a broad reach within the region.
- \$4300 to support a portion of coordinator salary
  - to be split 40/60 with the ACRD and Air Quality Society respectively,
- \$500 for materials and other expenses
  - The production of materials (brochures, signage, etc.) including the development of infographics and Vistaprint signs.

*Discussion that ensued:*

*Ron Corbeil: it seems as if there can never enough education and this is a good platform.*

*David McCormick: Has any outreach been done with the manufacturers of woodstoves? They often have cooperative advertising dollars that could be utilized.*

*Jade Yehia reminded the AQC of the three Health Canada videos that were released last spring which cover the topics of air quality and wood smoke. Currently on YouTube but should post links on the AQC web-based platform.*

*Patty Edwards: The Shaw TV videos that Tim Pley put together are also effective and should be included on website.*

- Emissions Inventory Anna  
 The successful applicant has been notified and the province is waiting for the consultant (WSP) to sign the contract for the Emission Inventory work. Their legal team is currently reviewing, and Earle is hoping for a start date by the end of next week.
- Status of ACRD bylaw Anna  
 Earle met with Mike Irg regarding how other regional districts have developed bylaws and how it has worked. Alex Dyer is currently compiling information for a briefing document for the ACRD board of directors. After this is done and staff has received feedback from the board, the bylaws should be developed. It is anticipated that the board of directors will receive document in February.
- PNWIS conference Anna  
 Earle and Anna both attended the Pacific Northwest Association of Air and Waste Management. There were excellent technical presentations in the field of air quality and water. Throughout the three-day conference there were several good networking opportunities (I.e. City of Kelowna) made and some of the takeaways include what is and is not working in various communities.
- New representation to council from ACRD and City Anna  
 ACRD: waiting to see what happens with the election hiccups and what the supreme court is going to say with regards to potentially holding a re-election for impacted electoral areas. There is currently an expression of interest from the Cherry Creek electoral director to sit on council (one of the electoral areas in question). In the meantime, Anna will connect with Diane and invite to January's meeting.

City: Ron Corbeil is the AQC's new City of Port Alberni representative. Welcome!

- Plan H grant Anna  
 The primary activities outlined in the grant were to build formal capacity to develop an airshed management plan which incorporates the needs and views of the community and to convene a community forum to enhance community awareness around the linkages between air quality and human health.

Earle had suggested that Dr. Michael Brauer and Sarah Henderson (BC Lung Association) be brought in to present. Unfortunately, Dr. Brauer is currently on sabbatical, and Sarah Henderson is unavailable until next fall and she would be please to come present at that point.

Anna connected with Dr. Paul Hasselback regarding presenting at community forum. He has given dates for early March and Anna will look into potential venues next week and confirm the

date. Potentially, VIU be able to present at the same time on their findings of the Regional Air Quality Mapping Project.

- Letter to Ministry re. Catalyst's industrial emissions permit Anna  
The Ministry has responded that will be engaged in discussion with Catalyst, Port Alberni to address the point raised in the Alberni Air Quality Society and the Port Alberni Air Quality Council letter of October 29, 2018 regarding particulate matter emission limit. The province will update as appropriate.

5. **AQC Terms of Reference** Anna  
The AQC reviewed and approved the final draft of the Terms of Reference.

Gary Swann moved the motion and Ron Corbeil seconded.

*"The Port Alberni Air Quality Council ratify and adopt the Terms of Reference as presented".*

All in favour.

6. **Next Meeting and presentation**  
Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, ACRD boardroom.

No presentation is currently scheduled. Patty Edwards raised concerns around marijuana production and the associated impact of emissions on air quality. Anna will investigate potential speakers as well as any associated data and research around air quality impacts but advised that legalized marijuana production is in its infancy and there may not be much available information as to date has been unmonitored.

Meeting Adjourned 3:27