

# MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

Thursday, May 2nd, 2019, 2pm  
ACRD Board Room

Present: John McNabb (ACRD electoral director)  
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)  
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)  
Earle Plain (Ministry of Environment)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)  
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)  
Anna Lewis (Chair)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office) arrived at 2:13  
Judy Carlson (Community at large) arrived at 2:20

Guests: Mike Owens (Port Alberni fire chief)  
Dr. Paul Hasselback (Island Health)  
Bernadette Wyton (original chair of AQC)  
Arne Elias (Alberni Air Quality Society)

Regrets: Jade Yehia (Island Health)  
Peter Mazey (FNHA)  
Larry Cross (Catalyst)  
Ron Corbeil (City of Port Alberni)

Meeting called to order at 2:06

## 1. WELCOME

Acknowledgement of the traditional territories.  
Roundtable of introductions.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John McNabb moved to adopt agenda as presented. Dave Jarrett seconded. All in favor.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Dec. 6th, 2018

John McNabb moved to adopt minutes as presented. Gary Swann seconded. All in favor.

## 3. UPDATES

### • Woodstove Exchange

Anna

-To date: 2 woodstove to woodstove exchanges; Anna received 3 inquiries re. woodstove to woodstove options this past month.

-Tracy had a resident purchase a pellet stove from one of our participating retailers that did not let them know about the WSE and found out about the program when the one pager went out with the Beaver Creek water bill. Anna will follow up with the retailer.

- Anna wrote a one-page informational document outlining WSE program and air quality in Port Alberni which went out with the Beaver Creek Water Bill. Tracy did a little insert that the Cherry Creek Waterworks District is putting in with their property assessments.

-Tanya Shannon is new Beaufort electoral director and plans on establishing some form of regular communication with residents. Anna will connect with her regarding getting WSE information out.

-federal government has just announced new rebates for up to \$2000 for heat pumps. This can be used to supplement the WSE.

- **Status of ACRD bylaw development**

John

-the report was bumped from April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-Directors want to flesh out the cost of bylaw enforcement a bit more so staff can recommend additional enforcement resources if required.

-Should be on the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

-the contribution to airshed particulates is a priority, especially now seeing the breakdown in the Air Emissions Inventory.

-At this point Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, are buying in and Beaufort may depending on the language of exemptions for agriculture.

- **SD70 Trustee Invitation**

Anna

- Anna will present during the petition section of the May 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Public Board meeting. - This is an opportunity to speak to the request for Trustee participation on the AV Air Quality Council.

- **District Energy System**

Anna

-Feedback from Stephen Salter was that at this point the City has realized it will not be able to go ahead with the project, because of issues with the City's current capacity to borrow.

-Arne: works nationally on similar projects and due to the gas tax being double this year, this would be a very good year to apply. Arne will follow up with Pat Deakin.

- **Community Health Fair**

Anna

-Today! 5-7pm at the multiplex. There are 90 vendors.

-Anna is personning booth with information on the WSE, health info, bylaw information, etc.

#### **4. Presentation: Earle Plain: Port Alberni Air Emissions Inventory**

The Air Emissions Inventory was contracted out to WSP Inc. and funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Alberni Air Quality Society. WSP used the base year of 2017 where possible. The inventory only looked at particulate matter as this was the identified parameter of concern. In Port Alberni, PM2.5 is the parameter that in non-compliance with provincial and national standards.

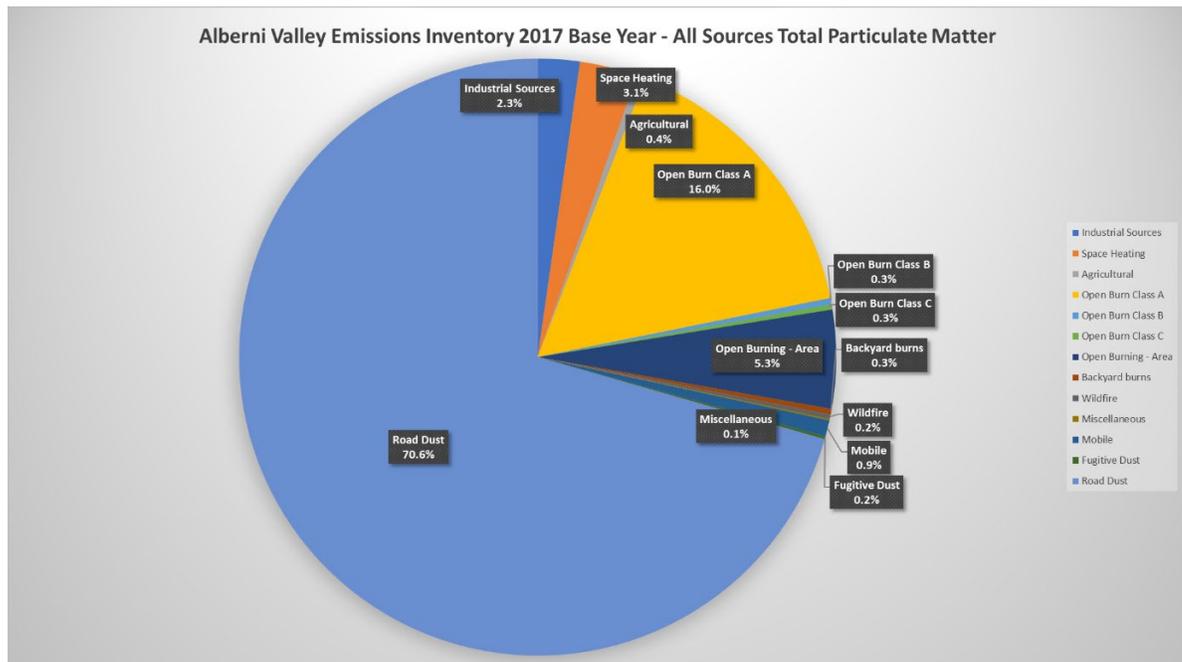
An Air Emissions Inventory (AEI) is an accounting of all emissions from sources in a specific geographic area (in this case Port Alberni airshed). Based on actual measurements (if available),

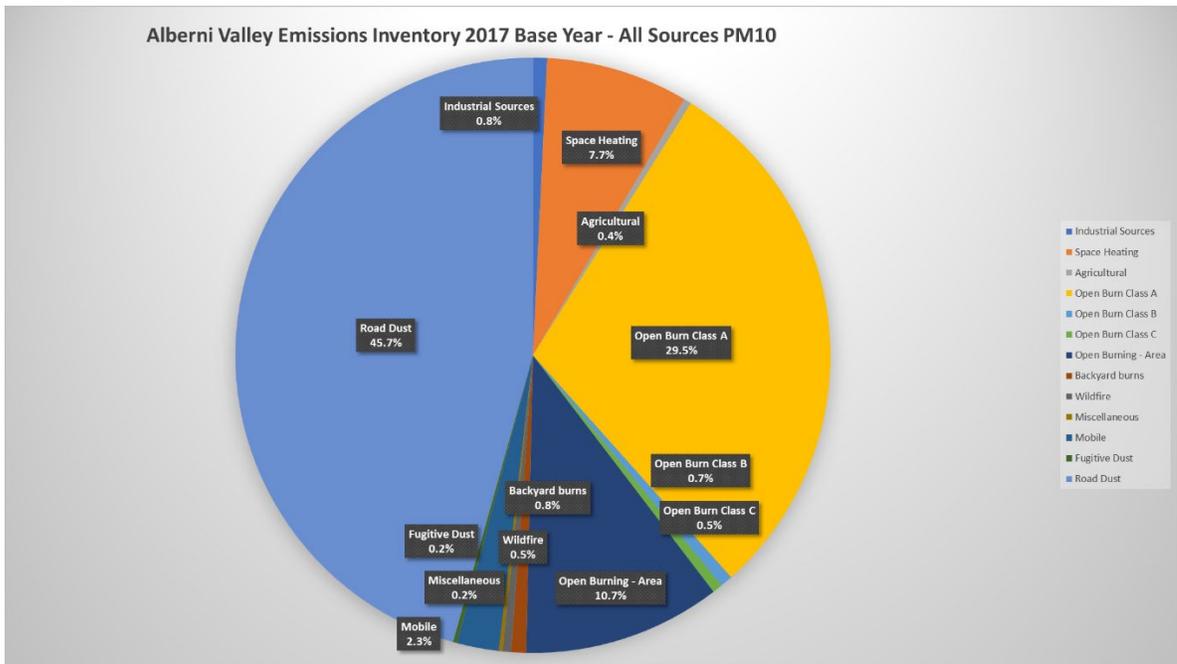
or type of activity multiplied by an emission factor; or a scaled value from another inventory based on some common value (population, fuel sales, livestock numbers, etc.). The AEI usually tabulates emissions from all sectors (Point sources, Area Sources, Mobile Sources, and sometimes natural) for a specific year or range of years e.g. base year 2017. The Port Alberni AEI is often a mix of the past three years. The AEI also describes how emissions were derived (methodology) for a source and geographic area.

In the inventory PM is broken down into three categories:

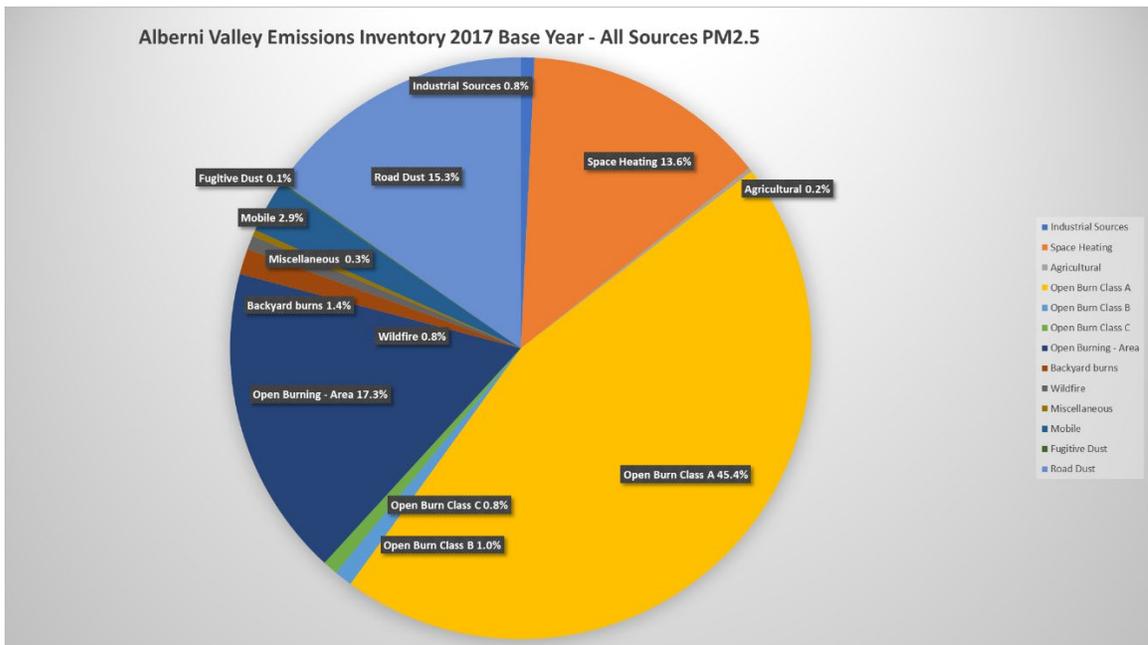
- 1) Total PM: generally, refers to particle sizes that range from 0 to 100 um in diameter. The mass of the particles in this size range are dominated by particles derived from mechanical grinding processes - erosion, crushing, grinding. Affected by gravitational settling
- 2) PM10: 0-10 um in diameter. Dominated by mass in the coarse particle range (2.5 -10 um). Road dust a good example of a PM10 source.
- 3) PM2.5: 0-2.5 um/n diameter. Dominated by combustion sources and secondary particles (formed by chemical reactions in the atmosphere).

*PM 2.5 is our focus. Fugitive and road dust are not as much of a concern. This is why the graphs in the inventory will show with and without road dust percentages. It is Important to recognize that there may be factors that unduly influence individual source types. For example, Area D is where a lot of open burning occurs which elevates the open burning category, but these emissions are well removed from people – important to keep in mind when examining major source contributions identified in the AEI*



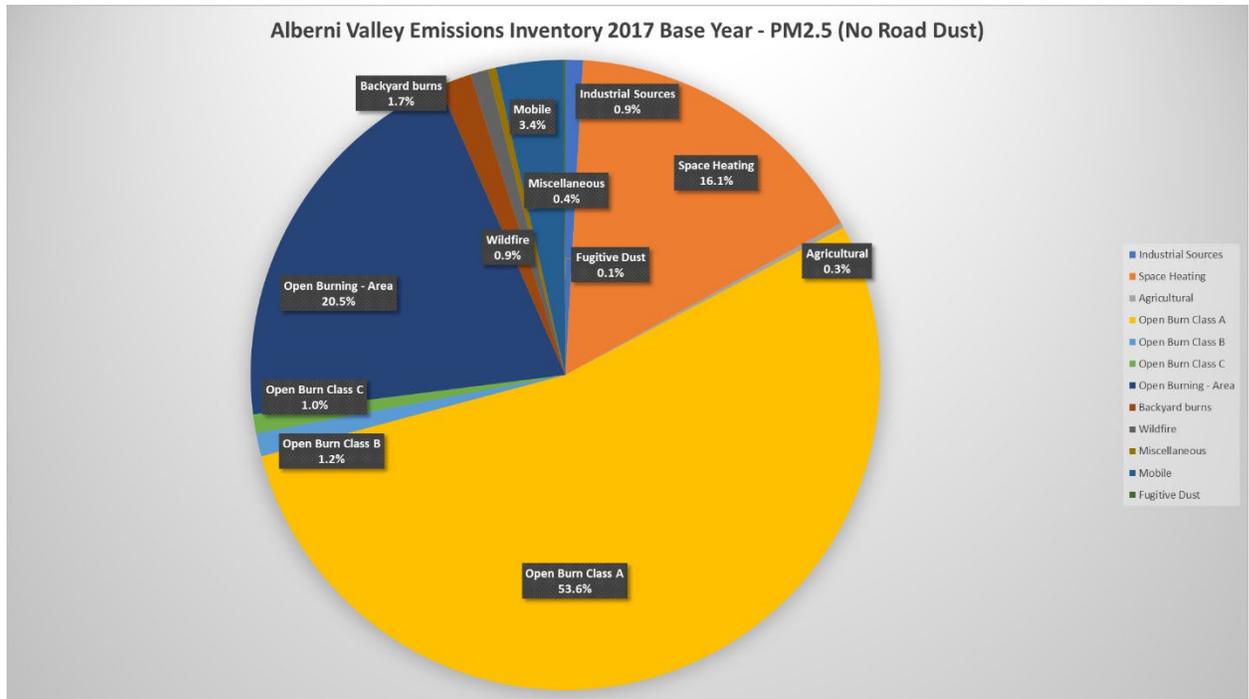


*Note that there was not a single exceedance of the provincial PM10 Objective in 10 years of monitoring - see Air Quality in Port Alberni 2016 report by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. However, if PM10 was a concern, road dust would be a good source to target to improve PM10 levels.*



*The PM2.5 emissions chart shows the space heating at 13.6% and open burning at 78-80% which shows us that we are focusing on the correct things; open burning sources and wood smoke.*

*It is important to note the difference in the graph when the road dust is removed. This is the graph that confirms the assumptions that the air quality council has been using. An AEI provides more information that we can add to our weight of evidence approach to determine which sources need more focus. Should not be used as a stand-alone piece of information.*



Breakdown of the different classification of open burns:

- Class A: forestry sector: burn more than 20 piles at a time. Cleanest burning due to BMPs employed by forest sector.
- Class B: agriculture/property development. Dirtier, green piles and smaller numbers close to people.
- Class C: individual burning piles. Variable quality, close to people.
- Area burns: forestry and broadcast burns

Key summary points Earle made were:

- Road dust contributes mainly to coarse particulate (>PM2.5) and is the dominant source for PM10 and TPM. Dust is prominent during the dry warm days of spring and summer.
- Road dust contributions to PM2.5 is 15% but estimate is likely biased high due to methodology used and other uncertainties.
- Seasonal patterns in PM2.5 indicate that combustion sources are important as exceedances occur during the cold season when dust is suppressed. No elevated PM2.5 during the spring and summer months (outside of WF impacts) when dust impacts would be expected.

When all sources of PM2.5 are examined, Open Burning and Space Heating (wood heat) combine to contribute over 79% of the PM2.5 emissions in the valley. When Road Dust is excluded (e.g. cool season impacts), Open Burning and Space Heating contribute over 94% of the PM2.5 emissions in the Valley.

- Source location matters. Area D contains a lot of Class A Open Burning emissions that will have limited impact on more densely populated areas near the city.
- Confirms that we are focussed on the right things for Airshed Management to improve PM2.5 levels.

Key points from ensuing conversation:

- Forestry sector does a good job of following best burning practices. Area D has quite a few Class C piles. Must be associated with development.
- Split inside the city vs. outside of the city woodheat emissions: 45% city and 55% outside. Higher density in city but probably less wood burnt as more efficient woodstoves.
- John: Why does government focus so much on vehicular emissions (i.e. electric vehicles) when there are higher areas of concern. Earle: This AEI focus on particulate matter. There are a lot of other emissions which come from vehicles that cause urban smog in large urban centers which is also a major health concern and provincial initiatives are focused on reducing those emissions. Focus on emissions from vehicles is mainly looking at major centers and an exposure perspective for a large population. Paul: Looking at the pie for us as opposed to looking at the pie for the province.
- Looking at vehicle emissions light vehicles are focused on but why not ATV's and heavy diesels trucks. Why is trucking is often excluded from emission agreements.
- Arne: In BC transportation is 32%. Nationally it is 25%. New federal money to deal with household emissions and trying to deal with nationally. We need to remember that issues are different nationally, provincially, and municipally.
- Bern: Forestry restrictions should be put on areas where there is close proximity to human populations.
- FLNRO: Earle works with to develop smoke management plans. Mapped out Vancouver Island in terms of smoke sensitivity. Low, medium, high and developed best management practices. Fire wooding/chipping/dispersal programs. Economics is a big driver. Piling, curing, burning under best possible conditions and they really are proactive.
- Gary: agricultural waste: If you compost, you are not burning.
- Forestry operations: dispersal, fire wooding. There is lots of talk around pellet plants and community energy systems, etc.

**5. Airshed Management Strategy – action items**

Anna

PM 2.5 is the identified parameter of concern. PM 2.5 analysis (see Air Quality in Port Alberni report Jan 2016) indicates that of all of the criteria air contaminants measured in the Alberni Valley, only PM2.5 exceeds Ambient Air Quality Objectives. Need to have a multipronged approach to target a reduction in particulate matter within the Alberni airshed. Will be

developing goals, targets (an achievement metric), and actions around each priority issue or group of issues.

**Draft: Key priority areas**

1. To create consistent messaging across the airshed on the impacts of air quality on public health
2. Reduce emissions from residential heating via woodstoves
3. Reduce emissions from open burning (backyard)
4. Vehicle emissions
5. Point source pollutants

**Brainstorming actions that would help target identify priority areas**

- work with SD70 to create educational campaign which works with school curriculum
- potentially utilize Bulldogs to get message across to community
- participate in community health campaigns
- information for Dr. offices and hospital: (create brochure similar to Breath Clean Air but not so anti woodsmoke?)
- need clear consistent messaging across the airshed
- social media campaign
- purple air sensors/ encourage citizen science?
- support enforcement
  - work with Conservation officers; how can they be supported
  - OBSCR, eventually
  - bylaw officers (city and regional) if they get regional bylaws in place.
- promote alternatives and best practice
- Use WSE to boost transition to alternate sources of heat (i.e. Sunshine coast does no woodstove to woodstove exchanges)
- look at what comox just did with building code. No woodstoves allowed in new developments
- ACRD wood stove compliance bylaws
- investigate opportunities to increase implementation of city woodstove compliance bylaw
- more communication with realtors around looking at age of woodstove when selling a home or disclosing that the WS is out of compliance for the home being sold.
- supplement to increase incentive of WSE
- support an organics diversion program
- yard waste/pick up
- tie into the developing recycling program
- increase First Nation involvement with the AQC
- identify hotspots in community (similar to what Courtenay did) and provide additional support
- chipping events/days (Samilkameen, Kelowna)
- ACRD open burning bylaw developed and implemented
- anti idling campaign; reduce vehicle idling through policies and education (signs up at recycle depot)
- diesel transport
- marine emissions

- support alternate modes of transportation
- Compliance with federal and provincial regulatory requirements by point source emitters
- receive reports from Catalyst
- look for co-benefits in reduction programs
- OCP to include air quality considerations

**6. Next Meeting and presentation**

- June 20th, 2pm, ACRD boardroom

Meeting adjourned at 3 :53