

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

OCTOBER 3rd, 2019, 2pm

ACRD Board Room

Present: Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)
Anna Lewis (Chair)
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)
Ron Corbeil (City of PA)
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)

Regrets: Judy Carlson (Community at large)
Jade Yehia (Island Health)
Karen Larsen (FNHA)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
Mike Owens (Fire Department)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)

Guests: Alex Dyer (planner)

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. Dave Jarrett seconded. All in favour.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20th, 2019

Larry Cross moved to adopt minutes as presented. Gary Swann seconded. All in favor.

3. PRESENTATION: Earle Plain: Provincial OBSCR Regulations

OBSCR stands for Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation and the province's new regulations came into effect on September 15th. Open burning across the province emits the most PM 2.5 relative to other sources and needs to be managed. The new regulations were developed with an emphasis on human health. These regulations set minimum requirements across the province and local government bylaws can be more restrictive.

Regulations have moved from a two-zone model to a three-zone model. Most of the Alberni Valley falls into a high smoke sensitivity zone (HSSZ) which has the most prescriptive regulations. There are 25 pages of regulations which can be found at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0405_2019

Key points of OBSCR to note:

- Increases to the setbacks. 500m from residential/business property lines, 1km from hospitals and schools. There is the ability to use old setbacks (100m and 500m) but only if certain provisions are met. If you want to burn close to people, then it needs to be done properly.
- OBSCR is applicable to all material over 10cms. Under 3cm is exempt from OBSCR. 3-10 cm. is largely not covered by OBSCR.
- There are restrictions on how many days you can burn within the HSSZ. 12 days in a calendar year or up to 6 days in a calendar month. Largely regulated on a complaint basis. One will need a burn reference number and there is now a record keeping provision, so this will be tracked.
- One day Open burning in HSSZ and MSSZ: Must be seasoned debris, good ventilation when you are starting up and needs to “ended” (no flames and down to 10% of original pile emitting smoke) two hours prior to sunset or 4PM whichever is later on the day of the burn.
- Option of burning more than 1 day in HSSZ. But have to meet larger setbacks, have good venting the first day and good to fair forecast for the second day. Reduced to 36 hours burn period (ended by 4PM on day 2). One can add debris to ignited pile up to 4 hours before sunset on 1st day only.
- Custom venting forecast – must be obtained from a forecaster as defined under OBSCR and submitted to Ministry before burning starts.

Other points made by Earle:

- Foliage was not defined under the old OBSCR. It is now defined but is still exempt from the OBSCR as the burning of leaves and foliage is exempt under the Environmental Management Act (the umbrella legislation). This is the reason that bylaws are still really important to deal with residential backyard burning.
- OBSCR suggests options to enhance best conditions.
- Major Forestry companies on Vancouver Island have done a lot of work on their BMPs (best management practices) to meet new criteria
- Province is working on some education material to distribute to communities/public.
- Air curtain Incinerators – might be a good investment for a community. Especially if largescale developments going in.
- There is a new interactive ventilation index map which combines venting information from Environment Canada with smoke sensitivity zone information and the requirements under the OBSCR for each zone. It uses mornings readings to project for that day. Greater definition and includes areas not previously included. I.e. Tofino

Discussion:

Ron: Does air curtain incinerator negate the 6 days allowable burning within one-year period? Yes, this completely opens up flexibility. Negates 6 day, reduces setback. You still need to check ventilation index every day and it needs to be fair or good. You don't have to abide by the smoke release period.

Larry: Do penalties exist? Yes, they range from \$5k-200,000.

4. ACRD Bylaws – Alex Dyer presented on status

- Staff is working through the process that would adopt regulations re. open burning, wood stove compliance. The intent of the staff is to integrate the suggestions from the AQC that emerged from the June 20th meeting within the next month and then starting the formal referral process to solicit feedback from Island Health and the Ministry of Environment. The AQC will have further opportunity to provide input.
- The ACRD Board has committed to engaging and consultation with the public
- Bylaws should be back on the agenda by the end of the year.

Questions/comments that emerged included:

- how to deal with existing masonry heaters? Earle said these would be exempt.

- developing package for realtors and house inspectors so they are up to date with bylaws once they are in place

-ACRD bylaw should include the clause the city bylaw has regarding sale of home

-With regards to Category 3 fires the ACRD bylaws should reference OBSCR

-the open burning bylaw should address the OBSCR exemption. I.e. Foliage under 3 cms.

5. UPDATES

- **New FNHA representative**

-Karen Larsen will be replacing Peter Mazey as FNHA representative

- **Woodstove Exchange**

-11 exchanges have occurred this year (7@\$250; 4@\$500) and there are currently 2 outstanding \$250 vouchers not yet completed.

-\$17 708.67 is remaining in WSE account. This includes carry over from 2018 year. This amount excludes advertising in local newspaper set to come out next week.

-Due to this surplus of funds the ACRD will run the program through and past the original Dec. 1st deadline.

-proposal for 2020 WSE was just completed and submitted. Requested \$15, 800 from the Ministry. Portion of funds for rebates requested was 10X\$250 15X\$500 exchanges.

Was suggested that Anna plots out the addresses on a map of where exchanges have occurred for the last few years. Allow us to see which neighbourhoods are taking advantage of WSE and where improvements should be occurring. Other suggestions which were made to increase uptake for the program included having a competition between retailers to try to get them to promote the program more on their end, and to place radio ads.

- **Reduction of diameter of yard waste accepted at the ACRD landfill**

-Diameter of wood waste accepted free of charged has been reduced from two inches to one.

-The rationale being that the landfill has to grind the wood waste and it costs money to do so.

-The landfill can compost sticks that are an inch or smaller without grinding them.

-Currently charging \$120/tonne although there has been an indication that the charge may be reduced to encourage the tipping of it. When the ACRD moves to organics and composting they will be encouraging the material being delivered (food waste will be charged at \$110/tonne).

whereas garbage is going up from \$120/tonne to \$130/tonne.

A directory of available options for individuals to dissuade backyard burning or illegal dumping should be created. What does JW Berry charge? Apparently, Bowerman also takes yard waste. In the event of natural disasters, the city/ACRD should think about setting up a yard for free disposal.

- **ICLEI workshop #3. Climate Adaption Strategy**

- the 3rd ICLEI workshop was Monday, September 30th.

- 4th meeting will be next spring which will be the implementation plan.

- Background: The City of Port Alberni has partnered with ICLEI Canada, an international non-profit that works with municipalities across Canada on climate change issues. The Together for Climate project is engaging with eight BC communities over two years to develop community climate change adaptation plans. Considered a key stakeholder in the community, the AQC was invited to assist in understanding the risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities facing Port Alberni as the climate continues to change.

- regarding air quality and adaptations, the main components that came up with regards to adaptations were clean air shelters (city identified a few times along with cooling shelters); education; reaching out to vulnerable populations during an air quality advisory; information for individuals re. HEPA filters, keeping doors and windows closed, etc.

- **Fall Fair**

- shared a table with the ACRD emergency services at the Fall Fair for the duration of the Fair.

- 20,000 attended fair this year.

- main concerns that were heard from the public visiting the table were people burning garbage in stove; unseasoned wood; backyard burning.

- Thanks to all who volunteered.

- **Catalyst emissions permit**

- July 12, 2019, the ministry received a positive response from Catalyst, Port Alberni to the ministry's letter of June 13, 2019 regarding reducing the mill's main stack Total Particulate Matter authorized maximum emission Limit.

- The ministry will process the noted reduction in a permit amendment.

Larry: Catalyst is taking this opportunity to revise/update certain portions of permit as some itemized sections are no long applicable as outdated and/or retired equipment. Paperwork is in process.

- **Inquiries around AQ and cannabis operations**

- received several inquiries over the course of the summer

- Attended Sproat Lake Community meetings re. Wild Coast Canna

- Directed people to look at what metro Vancouver's discussion paper titled: A Proposed Emissions Regulation for Cannabis Production and Operations from May 2019.

- <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/airquality/AirQualityPublications/CannabisProductionRegulationDiscussionPaper.pdf>

- ACRD has a current moratorium to any building permits issued related to cannabis until the board decides on a course of action.

- Anna did meet with directors from Wild Coast Canna, connecting them with Erik Krogh from VIU as well as Metro Vancouver.

Earle: Cindy Walsh with the Ministry has been working with Metro Van and Health Canada to assist in creating guidelines. Of particular interest is the addition of volatile organic compounds to an airshed. Her email is: Cindy.Walsh@gov.bc.ca

- **Airshed Management Strategy**

- not drafted over the summer as originally intended.
- lots of information compiled but needs to be pulled into draft format.
- intention is that this will be drafted prior to November's meeting

- **Plan H Grant: Building Healthy Communities**

- deliverables as outlined in original grant are all on track.
- 1)seek to address air pollution (in particular particulate matter 2.5) in the Alberni Basin through the creation of an airshed management plan
- 2)investigate bylaw development for the ACRD of open burning policies and compliance of woodstove with regards to EPA certification standards set in 1994.
- 3)to raise public awareness of the relationship between air quality and human health
- Final report is due Oct. 31st.

- **Eco-Options Energy Cooperative (Proton Power Technologies)**

- This is the convert wood fibre into renewable diesel project.
- Investigative trips did not occur. James Strain, Keith Hunter and Anna composed a series of questions for Pat Deakin to pose re. Proton Power. Focus of questions were impact related, not so much on business viability.
- Update from Pat Deakin was that FP Innovations have agreed to send one of their scientists along on the tour which is now scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. They will compile a report which will be made available to all 6 communities that have been identified as prospective locations to a refinery.

Ron: Was in a meeting in Parksville yesterday which had representatives from San Group, Mosaic, municipalities, and met with David Swann. Oct. 3rd & 4th trip mentioned above was postponed. David Swann spoke of the incentive to follow through on this project and that he has funding. Sees potential for 3-4 refineries. FP Innovations will be going down when tour actually occurs. Air quality and water shed protection were mentioned by David Swann as priorities when looking at siting locations.

6. **Direction/focus of AQC for upcoming season**

-responses from around the table included:

- Anna: Completion of the airshed management strategy and overhaul of the website.
- Dave: Wood Stove Exchange. Would like to see it ramped up and focus on the alternate fuel options.
- Ron: Education to the people dealing with/enforcing the bylaws. We need to give people/public a chance to catch up but providing better education.
- Stephanie: Completed ACRD bylaw development.

- Earle: Completed, reviewed Airshed Management Strategy which will highlight and focus areas to keep on. Need continual community engagement. Would like to see a final copy of VIU's report.
- Diane: Education; finding unique ways to engage public; WSE; Cannabis; Landfill bylaws; AQ is high priority; how to get information to people with no computer access.
- Gary: Wants to ensure that ACRD bylaws are followed through on; completion of the Airshed Management Strategy.

7. Next Meeting and presentation

Nov. 7th, 2pm, ACRD boardroom.

Meeting Adjourned 4:13pm