

# MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

NOVEMBER 7th, 2019, 2pm

ACRD Board Room

Present: 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)  
Judy Carlson (Community at large)  
Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)  
Mike Owens (Fire Department)

Regrets: Jade Yehia (Island Health)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)  
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)  
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)  
Karen Larsen (FNHA)

Meeting called to order at 2:05

## 1. WELCOME

- acknowledgement of the traditional territories
- roundtable of introductions

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Stephanie Bruvall moved to adopt agenda as presented. Judy Carlson seconded. All in favour.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 3rd, 2019

Ron Corbeil moved to adopt minutes as presented. Dave Jarrett seconded. All in favor.

## 3. UPDATES

### • Woodstove Exchange

- 11 woodstove exchanges have occurred, currently have another 4 in progress. Up two from last month.
- Breakdown of exchanges is: 10 woodstoves to woodstove; 5 woodstoves to cleaner burning appliances.
- Two local heat pump distributors have reached out to see if they can be part of the program. They will be part of the 2020 program providing funding comes through. Regardless, we can ensure that they are part of the program come January as there will be funds remaining in account.
- Regarding mapping past WSE participants the ACRD has provided me with electoral areas as addresses in the past had not been recorded for privacy reasons. The ACRD has files dating back

to 2015. Prior to 2014 WSE was facilitated by AQC chair. Anna to follow up with Bernadette to see if she has information on file.

*Stephanie: Double check if postal codes were collected as this would assist in narrowing down geographic locations.*

*Mike: Should look into the BC Hydro rebate program. On their website there is a community level tab. Information on the ACRD WSE should get listed there. There is also a website that has consolidated information on available rebates. [www.betterhomesbc.ca](http://www.betterhomesbc.ca). Can utilize project tool and enter in municipality. Currently WSE program is there but should confirm that information is up to date. Anna will follow up.*

- **ACRD Bylaws**

- nothing to report. Alex stated he will have update for December meeting.

- **Alberni Air Quality Society - AGM**

- Monday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>

- renewed contract and scope of AQC chair. Anna has signed new contract for Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The identified priorities from the AQC membership discussed at Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were brought to AAQS and incorporated into priorities and scope for the new contract.

- Key priorities/actions for this year include but not limited to:

- updating AQ portion of ACRD website

- completing airshed management plan

- ensuring that climate change is in the AQC TOR as well as identified as a priority in the airshed management strategy

- organizing a presentation to AQC regarding climate change

- Anna to renew term on the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network

- look into purple air monitors and identifying possibility for project

- officially thanking Catalyst and BC MoE once reduced industrial emissions permit is finalized

- finalizing ACRD burning bylaws (approach ACRD with a fee for service for open houses);

- following up on reduction of diameter of wood accepted free of charge at landfill.

- nominated and elected directors for 2019/2020 are as follows:

- Arne Elias: president

- Keith Wyton: vice president

- Judy Carlson: treasurer

- Bernadette Wyton: secretary

- Patty Edwards: director

*Discussion around what are purple air monitors, and could they be utilized in Port Alberni.*

*Purple air monitors are small sensors that are based on citizen science. It is a light scattering monitor that pulls air into a dual sensor configuration and measures fine particulate.*

*Approximately \$250 to purchase.*

*There are currently a few hundred across the province. Cowichan Valley has about 20 of them. On average the purple air monitors show a pretty good relationship with Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) monitors on 24-hour concentrations at lower levels but when concentrations of*

*PM are high there has been an observed bias – e.g. the Purple Air Monitor reads higher than the FEM.*

*Purple air monitors will measure pm2.5, pm10 and total suspended particulates. Pm 2.5 numbers seem to be good when compared to FEM measurements while PM10 and total particulates are not so great. One has to use caution regarding citizen science as the public treats them like the bible but not completely accurate. If installation is incorrectly done this will impact readings. It is pertinent to develop the purpose of the objective, what you want to achieve, etc. Can be very powerful and useful if objectives are clear.*

*If endorsed by the AQC, would need to ensure installation is done properly. Develop clear TOR around any kind of monitoring program. There still are lots of unanswered questions regarding small scale sensors i.e. how they handle drift over time. Could be useful for hotspot quantification as one can flood an area and really see hotspots. Prince George is currently doing a study.*

*If the AQC were to pursue this type of project the BC government could potentially assist with installation, sensor maintenance. Perhaps grant in aid could be utilized to partially cover cost of sensors. Could twin with a public engagement piece/fundraiser in the spring.*

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- **AAQS letter to ACRD regarding reduction of yard waste diameter**

- Anna distributed a letter she had written on behalf of the AAQS for the AQC to review and make a decision on whether to be included and expanding upon.
- Stephanie reported that Island Health will have some comments to review and potentially include in final letter.

Gary Swann made the motion:

**“That the AQC support and be included in the letter to the ACRD regarding the yard waste diameter reduction that the AAQS drafted with the understanding that Island Health’s comments will be incorporated into letter prior to being sent”.**

Ron Corbeil second. All in favour.

- **BC Lung Conference**

- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Vancouver. 8:30am-5pm
- theme: environmental justice of air quality in the era of citizen science
- “Marginalized communities are often disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards in comparison with the overall population. In response, the environmental justice movement has evolved, with a focus on equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. The concept of environmental justice includes not only equal protection for all people under environmental laws, regulations, and policies, but also significant involvement of potentially impacted communities in environmental policy and natural resource development decisions”.
- At AAQS AGM it was decided that the AAQS for foot the bill for the registration portion ONLY of the conference should anyone be interested in attending. The livestream option could be set up

in Port Alberni (Patty Edwards indicated interest) and Anna could find a space/lunch to do so. Interested parties must let Anna know prior to Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, so she can get early bird rate.

- VIU Final Report on Mapping Project
  - Erik has indicated that he would like to come and present to the group to provide a general overview of the results and field some questions. This will provide him with information of how to focus or gage a 'final report'.
- Bulldogs game
  - Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm
  - promotion of woodstove exchange
  - may be postponed as there is currently a low-level ammonia leak.
- Airshed Management Strategy
  - Background and history drafted
  - Going to connect with Island Health (Jade) re. writing health component to create more comprehensive background
  - Need to flesh out strategies and timeline
  - wrangling with the ranking of priorities

Emerging key priorities are:

  - Enhance access to air quality information and increase public awareness (emphasis on public health)
  - Reduce emissions from residential heating via woodstoves
  - Reduce emissions from open burning (backyard)
  - Vehicle emissions (including marine transport) and creating supporting for alternate transportation
  - Point source pollutants
  - Support ongoing air quality research to protect and improve air quality.

*A key priority needs to include reference to climate change. Discussion ensued around some of the things Cowichan Valley is doing, i.e. venting index is announced every day after the weather of the local radio station; community newsletters; short air quality did you know type sound bites; local TV. Across the board in every sector effective education of public seems to be the largest factor. Citizen science can create buy in but can also get out of control, thus very important to create clear objectives.*

##### **5. Next Meeting and presentation**

- Thursday, Dec. 12th, 2019, 2pm, ACRD boardroom
- review of AQC Terms of Reference; Anna will send out with potential changes highlighted before the end of the month
- Erik Krogh to present on findings of VIU Pilot Mapping Project

Meeting adjourned 3:48