

MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

MARCH 5th, 2020, 2:30pm

ACRD Board Room

Present: Dave Jarrett (Community at large)
Anna Lewis (Chair)
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)
Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)
Mike Owens (Fire Department)
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)
Jade Yehia (Island Health) via phone
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member) arrived 2:36

Regrets: Earle Plain (MOE)
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Karen Larsen (FNHA)
Helen Poon (City of PA)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)
Judy Carlson (Community at large; AAQS)

Guests: Lucas Bantam (fire chief of the Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department)
Jenny Brunn (Operations Manager ACRD)

Meeting called to order at 2:33

1. WELCOME

- acknowledgement of the traditional territories
- roundtable of introductions

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rosemarie Buchanan moved to adopt agenda as presented. Dave Jarrett seconded. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 6th, 2020

Dave Jarrett moved to adopt minutes as presented. Stephanie Bruvall seconded. All in favor.

3. UPDATES

- Jenny Brunn, ACRD Manager for Operations

Reduction of Yard Waste Diameter

In November the AQC wrote a letter to the ACRD in relation to the reduction of yard waste from 2" to 1" accepted free of charge at the landfill. The primary ask of the letter was to review and overturn this decision and provided the historical context in which yard waste was accepted in the first place.

Jenny spoke to initial decision and apologized for the lack of consultation as she was unaware of the history. The rationale for the reduction was that the landfill can compost sticks that are an inch or smaller without grinding them. Anything larger than an inch the landfill has to grind the wood waste and it costs money to do so. Costs reflect that in 2019 wood waste cost the ACRD \$55,000. Currently volumes are about 1500 tonnes per year.

Jenny took a look at what other regional districts on the island are charging for wood waste. All charge for wood waste and most have a separate charge for yard waste. Cost per tonne range from \$55/tonne in Nanaimo to \$120/tonne in Port Alberni.

The ACRD has received a Firesmart grant for the 2020 year. This is a large grant which specified \$20,000 for chipping. To note this is a one year only grant.

The grant specified 3 different events related to wood waste and chipping.

1. Bin events: 7 distinct geographically areas (Alberni Valley electoral areas and Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nation).
2. Will waive tipping fees at the landfill for wood waste, one weekend in spring and one in fall.
3. For individuals that have no access to vehicles or a medical reason someone will come and collect the wood waste. This will be on a first come, first serve basis until funds are depleted.

Jenny has asked that the AQC provide her with a recommendation that they would find acceptable. The AQC must keep in mind that there is a cost to managing wood waste. The wood must be paid for. Preliminary look at numbers have shown that wood waste could be reduced to \$55/tonne. If the fees are further reduced the revenue has to come from somewhere (i.e. increase in garbage fees, tax).

The AQC will put together a recommendation and send to Jenny after April 2nd meeting.

Measuring methane at the landfill

The ACRD has a partnership with Vancouver Island University (VIU) to measure methane at the landfill. VIU has the ability to fund match money and will be measuring methane, PM_{2.5}, and other gas levels at the landfill and on the Tseshaht reserve. A grad student will be working on this project. The levels are currently low. The ACRD will place static equipment and this information will be calibrated against the numbers that the mass spectrometers measures. Currently the landfill generates between 600-1000 tonnes of methane/year (based on estimates utilizing formulas rather than actual numbers).

- **Air Quality Advisory for Port Alberni**

- was called on Feb. 10th Monday morning and lifted on Tuesday morning
- important to note the day of the week, especially last month's presentation by Earle Plain. Hebdomadal (day of the week) analysis indicates that weekend burning in springtime is a significant source of PM_{2.5}. Exemplifies continued need for ACRD to investigate open burning bylaw to compliment City bylaw.
- it was a beautiful weekend, and a couple people commented on where they saw large fires. Also interesting is that no reports to the RAPP line.

- **2020 Woodstove Exchange**

- newspaper advertisements have gone out to all papers, Westerly, AV News, Ha-Shilth-Ha, community FB corkboard in Bamfield. Tracey has received zero calls inquiring after the WSE. 0 exchanges.

- still need to put in radio ads, will do this through the Alberni Air Quality Society.

- SL AGM occurred on Feb. 24th. Penny Cote, electoral director asked that appropriate material be displayed showing some of the various things that residents might want to utilize. Thus, was there with WSE material, BC Lung material and different pieces of wood and a moisture meter.

- **February Conferences**

- 1) Legacy for Airway Health and Healthy Indoor Environments at the BC Lung Association

- Feb. 10th, 11:30-3, Vancouver

- Anna Lewis, Keith and Bernadette Wyton attended

- focus was to discuss an Air Quality Health Research and Knowledge Translation Strategy.

- Identify key gaps in practice and policy that guide air quality and health-related research in BC.

- interesting and some interesting points around:

- looking at how to translate and distill information for population. Looking at how to synthesize statistics from a large population and then using that to create a descriptive analysis for small scale populations.

- looking at health indicators: # hospital visits; dispersal of medication.

- how to ensure that the evidence is transferable (understand demographics, defining language)

- 2)BC Lung conference:

- Feb. 11th, 8:30-5, Vancouver

- Keith Wyton, Bernadette Wyton and Anna Lewis attended.

- Theme of conference was: Environmental Justice of Air Quality in the Era of Citizen Science.

- as per usual was excellent with a wide range of speakers from across Canada and US.

- focus on FNs, citizen science and PM2.5

- 3)Environmental Protection Agency

- Feb. 12th 8-4:30, Richmond

- Covered the environmental assessment act: Enhancing Certainty and Transparency, Promoting Sustainability and Supporting Reconciliation; Reviewable Projects: How are projects brought into the EA process?; Early engagement and readiness decision.

- This was an overview of the new environmental assessment act and very much focused on FNs, developing protocol, what triggers an assessment, and a large portion of time was spent on the early engagement policy.

- 2) **NEW BUSINESS**

- Lucas Banton, chief of the Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department

- Diane Bodnar had approached him regarding potentially attending one of our meetings and exploring potential opportunities for collaboration. Some of Lucas' main points were:

- doesn't want to see more regulations regarding outdoor burning bylaws but would like to see more educations/promotion done of proper burning
 - potentially could see the fire department assisting in 30 second videos on best burning practices. TikToc style which can be promoted via social media channels.
 - It was mentioned that one of the volunteers at the Sproat Lake Fire Department is super tech savvy.
 - Jade referred to the videos that Earle sent. These could be utilized in the absence of localized videos. Island Health has some video/multimedia service.
 - Calling the RAPP line is important. When a fire is called into 911, they check to see who has permits and they can let the fire chief know. Often fire department goes and speaks with landowner that is burning. Education is a priority.
 - Feels there has been good inroads made with wood stoves. Most chimney fires are due to not having an insert which is now a requirement for the WETT certification.
 - One of the benefits of woodstoves is the ability to firesmart as you take wood out of the outlying of town and burns it at a highly efficient rate. Good value in term of a safety point of view.
- Bylaw 4802: Regulate Emissions from Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances
 - City will be overhauling bylaws and streamlining to get rid of obsolete bylaws. Bylaw 4802 is currently not enforceable. This is problematic.
 - Mike Owens encouraged the AQC to give this some thought as this bylaw will most likely be on the chopping block.
 - Some thoughts:
 - Might be an ability to monitor outside of the house.
 - Touch base with the City of Duncan. Bylaw. Something to do with Upon title transfer, renovations, change out of the stoves occurs. Anna will follow up.
 - Realtors know that the bylaw exists and realize that there is no incentive to letting potential customers know
 - Delve into the house insurance. Should requires wett certification.
 - Can be a visual check from the outside. When you look at the chimney if it doesn't have an insert it is an old woodstove.

3) NEXT MEETING

-April 2nd, 2pm

Adjourned. 4:04.