

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

APRIL 30th, 2020, 11am

Via Zoom

Present: Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)
Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)
Mike Owens (Fire Department)
Jade Yehia (Island Health)
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)
Earle Plain (MOE)
Anna Lewis (Chair)
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper) left at 12:31
Helen Poon (City of PA) left at 12:17
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office) left at 12:20
Judy Carlson (Community at large; AAQS)

Regrets: Dave Jarrett (Community at large)
Karen Larsen (FNHA)
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)

Guests: Jenny Brunn (Operations Manager ACRD) left at 12:08
Keith Wyton (AAQS)
Bernadette Wyton (AAQS)

Meeting called to order at 11: 05

1. WELCOME

- acknowledgement of the traditional territories
- welcome Helen Poon (new city representative) to her first AQC meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mike Owens moved to adopt agenda as presented. Diane Bodnar seconded. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5th, 2020

Mike Owens moved to adopt minutes as presented. Gary Swann seconded. All in favor.

3. UPDATES

• 2020 Woodstove Exchange

- radio advertising was organized and going to start mid-March. Currently on hold.
- 2020 WSE has facilitated one exchange.

• Cancellation of Fall Fair

- typical venues/events for connecting with the public have been cancelled.
 - ie. Bulldogs, community health fair and Alberni Fall Fair.
- Anna looking for ideas for ways to connect with public at this point in time.

Ideas generated:

- sandwich boards with venting information, burning restrictions, etc. strategically placed
- electronic sign in front of firehall. Would require grant money but could have specific information pertinent to air quality as well as fire information. Mike Owens said the firehall would have an interest in hosting sign.
- Diane to follow up with Cherry Creek volunteer fire department in terms of potential for signage.
- social media should be utilized.
- Beaver Creek Firehall already has electronic sign
- Plan H. has small grant focused on engagement in the era of Covid. Due in July. Anna to explore.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- **Request for recommendation/feedback regarding waiving tipping fees at AV landfill for branches during COVID.**

Jenny presented her proposal on a \$5 flat fee per load at the landfill for yard waste (includes all sizes of branches and twigs).

- with traffic higher than ever at the Alberni Valley Landfill, and social distancing measures in place having a “free” weekend at the landfill is not a good idea. Past experience has had vehicles backed up to McCoy Lake Road and current capacity does not have the ability to handle an event like this.
- alternative that has emerged would be to do a flat fee per load starting after the May long weekend and running for 6 months. Can reassess at the end of 6 months and see if the flat fee covers costs. Some dollars from Firesmart grant could be allocated towards this initiative.
- ACRD still investigating possibilities of doing a couple free events potentially collaborating with Earth, Land and Sea as well as JW Berry.

General consensus of AQC was supportive of the presented approach. It was suggested that any request for decisions going forward to the ACRD identify the intent of utilizing the chipping portion of the firesmart grant and looking to community partners to offer free drop off, with the deferral of line items regarding curbside pickup and bin events to a later date when not dealing with COVID19.

Motion moved by Keith Wyton and seconded by Mike Owens:

“To support a policy change at the Alberni Valley Landfill to have a \$5 flat fee for yard waste (with the exclusion of grass clippings and leaves). Would recommend incorporating a sunset policy for one month to have separated branches under 1 inch in diameter to remain free of charge”.

All in favour. Motion carried.

- **Request for recommendation regarding reducing fees associated with woodwaste**
-as per Jenny Brunn's presentation at our last AQC meeting. See #3 Updates section of minutes dated March 5th.

This item was removed from agenda in light of flat fee being recommended.

- **Formal referral process for bylaws due by May 31st**
-AQC needs to collate a response/comments.
-Check in of initial thoughts on bylaws and Anna will collate and email out a draft for AQC members to review by May 10th.
-Anna to reach out to planning department to request that individual response forms accompany each bylaw rather than both bylaws on one form.

Bylaw No. R1030: A bylaw to regulate solid-fuel burning appliance emission

Key points identified during discussion:

- Tighten up the language for "certified appliance" under definitions
- concern around the language of the bylaw. Normal farm use needs to be defined to satisfy need and legitimate use of a local product.
www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96131_01#section2
- issues with enforcement. How can these be addressed? Are there tools out there? One measurement that has been using in the states which looks at the density of smoke. Opacity measure but it is subjective.
- Could be times when enter to inspect could be a last effort thing. Require registration for woodstoves. If you have a stove it needs to be registered. Wood smoke issue and no registration could be entered.
- information on homemade stoves define here:
www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/218_2016
- Could be an allowance for exceptions. Bound to be from time to time and exceptions for a few things such as boiling sap for maple syrup productions.
- from a health perspective this is a great move forward
- There is an appetite to implement workable bylaws. Registration of woodstoves seemed to get a large positive feedback and actually allows for evaluation.

Bylaw No. R1032: Outdoor Burning Smoke Control Regulation Bylaw

Key points identified during discussion:

Category A fires:

- good that ACRD is focusing on anything under 10 cms. This is a gap not covered by OBSCR that is important to address.
- Why would you allow a Category A fire to burn for 72 hours? This seems excessive.

Should be restricted to an overnight pile. 7pm is too late with regards to adding more material at night with regards to inversions.

Category B fires:

- Some things that they carried over but should just leave to OBSCR and remove. There are different sensitivity zones in the different electoral areas. Should default to OBSCR.
- Need to highlight key points of OBSCR and direction to get more information.
- In Section 4 there are substantial improvement is the limitation of burning periods. It prevents any opens fires for the timeframe of burning period. Worried that if we get rid of Cat. B fires we lose timeframe.
- Exception: large fires. Land clearing for residential development, normal farm practices is exempt. Not actually capturing larger fires if you are exempting them.
- Need to take a look at the farm practices protection act.

5. NEXT MEETING

- May 28th, 2020 2pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned: 1:09