

# MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING

Thursday, May 28th, 2020, 2pm  
Via Zoom

Present: Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)  
Mike Owens (Fire Department)  
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)  
Anna Lewis (Chair)  
Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)  
Helen Poon (City of PA)  
Patty Edwards (MLA's Office)  
Judy Carlson (Community at large; AAQS)

Regrets: Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)  
Dave Jarrett (Community at large)  
Karen Larsen (FNHA)  
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)  
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)  
Jade Yehia (Island Health)  
Earle Plain (MOE)

Meeting called to order at 2:03

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

-Acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nation.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

-one addition regarding a citizen complaint  
Helen Poon moved to adopt agenda as amended. Diane Bodnar seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 30th, 2020

Gary Swann moved to adopt minutes as presented. Helen Poon seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

## 3. UPDATES

- Woodstove Exchange  
-1 exchange occurred this month (woodstove to woodstove); 2 thus far
- Valley Vibe Air Quality Article  
-AAQS put together a one page article for the Valley Vibe.

-included information on air quality, membership of AQC and achievements, information about the woodstove exchange program and importance of bylaws and the correlation to community health.

-Valley Vibe is typically on the ferries and tourist info centers but due to COVID-19 they are taking a different approach and doing a mailout to Port Alberni and surrounding area residents.

-ACRD took out a half page advertisement to solicit public engagement around bylaws.

- AQC website hosted by the ACRD
  - The ACRD is starting to update the information on the website, reflecting updates Anna sent them early December. At this point the ACRD is planning on having the bylaw information for public input contained within this section of the website. Anna will touch base with Amy to ensure all relevant information is updated. (I.e. including the final report of the Air Emissions Inventory, VIU mobile monitoring report).
- Public consultation process for ACRD bylaws
  - still evolving
  - the idea of a survey going out to residents was suggested. Anna to follow up with Alex to see if this could be an option. How to collect and collate information, target audience would need to be determined.

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

- A local resident phoned Anna to express dismay at his perceived lack of monitoring within the Valley. He would like to see a monitoring station run for one year in North Port monitoring for other contaminants than PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Fairly aggressive and has a history of negative interactions with the AQC, City, ACRD and Catalyst.
- Formal referral process for bylaws due by May 31st
  - Alberni Clayoquot Health Network submitted a formal response in support of bylaws
  - Agricultural Development Committee is submitting a response wanting an exemption process in place for legitimate agricultural products for woodstoves; would like to have clear instruction sheets for agricultural land clearing that can be distributed to all owners of ALR property within the region as well as distributed through the Alberni Farmers' Institute email list and agriculturally related ACRD email listserves.

Comments that were received from various AQC members on the bylaws included:

##### Bylaw R1030: Solid Fuel Appliance Regulation

-if a registration of woodstoves does occur, suggest including the age of the woodstove when it is registered, along with Wett inspection.

-for stoves seeking exemptions an emission sampling could be the criteria for evaluating impact of stove.

##### Bylaw R1032: Outdoor Burning Smoke Control Regulation

- Might want to consider tweaking the language for the Venting index to include an Afternoon Venting Index only; The morning index is generally POOR during the cold months. From the OBSCR – "ventilation forecast" means the afternoon ventilation index forecast issued by Environment Canada for a geographic area;
- Look at extending the burning window in the fall to begin September 15<sup>th</sup> instead of October 1<sup>st</sup>. This would allow operators to take advantage of better venting in the early fall (burning opportunities become more and more limited as we move later into the cold season). Note that burners could not take advantage of this earlier start date unless the BC Wildfire Service prohibitions have been lifted. Normally prohibitions lifted well before October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ensure that language is not less restrictive than provincial OBSCR
- include link to OBSCR factsheet

Anna to incorporate input and finalize. Will email out to AQC for final comment and submit to the ACRD.

Meeting was abruptly cut short at 2:40 due to Zoom technical difficulties and chair's incompetence. By the time Anna got back only Diane and Larry in attendance. Decision made that Anna would amend bylaw submission, email out to group and then submit prior to May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 2:49pm

## **5. NEXT MEETING**

-June 25th, 2020 2pm via Zoom?