

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AQC MEETING
Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 2020, 2pm
Via Zoom

Present: Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper)
Rosemarie Buchanan (SD70)
Anna Lewis (Chair)
Judy Carlson (Community at large; AAQS)
Tarek Ayache (Ministry of Environment)
Gary Swann (Agricultural Community member)
Diane Bodnar (ACRD electoral director)
Mike Owens (Fire Department)
Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper)
Helen Poon (City of PA) 2:44
Jade Yehia (Island Health) 3:06

Regrets: Melissa Joe (FNHA)
Stephanie Bruvall (Island Health)

Meeting called to order at 2:04

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two additions were added under New Business

- 1) Alberni Climate Action Group
- 2) City Survey on revitalization of uptown Alberni, call for input

Rosemarie Buchanan moved to adopt agenda with additions. Mike Owens seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Nov. 5th, 2020

Judy Carlson moved to adopt minutes as presented. Diane Bodnar seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

3. PRESENTATION: LARRY CROSS FROM CATALYST

Mill operations

-Catalyst was the victim of ransom ware. Mill was shut down for 2 weeks while dealing with associated issues.

- COVID-19 protocols have been in place and local mill has not been impacted.
- both paper machines are running
- lightweight newsprint and telephone directory paper being made
- food grade packaging is a recent development and several new products being made that are finding end markets. Catalyst has trademarked “Bistro” as the name for this packaging.

Environment and Air Quality

- the long-term trend with regards to PM_{2.5} show a continuous decrease of emissions coming from the power boiler stacks.
- The permit amendment request has not yet been submitted (to lower annual average from 115 to 50 mg/m³) but it is anticipated that this will occur in January.
- Greenhouse gas emissions per tonne in 2019 = 17% vs 1990.
 - 2019 83% of steam energy was produced from biomass (hog fuel)
 - 2019 testing of dioxins and furons results lowest they have recorded.
- Tire derived fuel (TDF) continues to be part of operations. This assists with wet wood during winter months. With the APD mill is running steady there is a good supply of hog fuel. If no hog fuel, Catalyst utilizes natural gas.
- Provincial E2 regulation.
 - Catalyst has sulphur dioxide onsite so has triggered this regulation.
 - Have completed environmental emergency update re. to safe treatment of hazardous chemicals.
 - In addition to what the mill is doing to prevent emergency, there must be a plan addressing what procedures are executed if there is an emergency.
 - Currently have 24 hr. monitoring, hazmat training, regular drills, and exercises.
- June 2020 Catalyst named in top 50 for Corporate Knights.
 - Related to greenhouse gases.

4. UPDATES

- **Woodstove Exchange**

- 6 exchanges completed and 2 more in process
- Woodstove coordinators across the province have all been sent a survey looking at effectiveness of WSE, suggestions for improvement, etc. Anna completed.
- Proposal Anna put forward to BC Lung and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy utilizing remaining funding was successful. Approved funding and allocation of funds is:

City or Region	ACRD
Remaining Total (\$)	26000
Exchanges (\$)	19500
Education (\$)	0
Advertising (\$)	2000

Salaries (\$)	4500
Materials and Other (\$)	0

- **Public consultation process for ACRD bylaws**
 - The online public survey for the public consultation should be going online in the next 2 weeks. This will be based on initial questions drafted last spring by Anna. When survey goes online Anna will pass along link so AQC membership can distribute.
- **Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Resilience Summit**
 - occurred Nov. 6th
 - There was representation from rural and urban communities from across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Island. Underrepresentation from Indigenous communities but it was an inspiring, exciting day.
 - There were large plenary sessions which addressed the terms of resilience and current approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation.
 - People were put into smaller groups (10 groups in total) to create specific goals and actions. (Diane and Jade were in the healthy community group and Anna was in food security and agriculture).
 - Intent was that by the end of the day there would be a list of clear 2030 goals for climate mitigation and adaptation as well as an associated list of the key actions we can take as a region to achieve these goals and what resources are required.
 - There will be a final report summary. Once received will be distributed to the AQC.
- **Cowichan Airshed Roundtable Winter Session**
 - postponed until Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 9-11.
- **City bylaw 4802 on emissions for solid fuel burning appliances**
 - Anna will collate how other communities are enforcing related bylaws and send information to Mike.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- **Environment Canada low cost sensor project**
 - Environment Canada is willing to provide AQC with 2 sensors
 - Alberni Air Quality Society will purchase 2 additional sensors
 - MoE has said they may be able to provide a more couple sensors if the AQC puts together a communications plan. Anna to pursue.
 - 2 sensors currently exist:
 - one is located at 6th and Redford
 - one is located at 6th and Northpark
 - <https://cyclone.unbc.ca/aqmap/v2/index.html?zoom=9&lat=48.878&lng=-124.358>
 - Siting of new monitors:

- Cherry Creek Firehall (awaiting confirmation that they will house a sensor. If not have a private resident a kilometer away on Cherry Creek Road that would participate).
- corner of Falls and Lugin (Beaver Creek)
- need to identify someone in Cameron Heights area
- near the Port Authority dock

- **Social Justice class air quality presentation and potential projects**

- Anna presented to class via Zoom on Nov. 26th
- The two AQ projects that a student may potentially work on are:

- 1)Burning It Right Shaw Clips/TikToc

- Updating the Burning It Right Shaw Clips done with the fire chief in 2013. This was a series of 18 – 1-minute clips.
- Could be a fun educational project to review and reproduce clips via Shaw TV, Nancy Wilmot is happy to mentor anyone doing community programming. Also explore other avenues such as Tic Toc.

- 2)Exploring pros and cons of citizen science and low-cost sensor project

- A student could assist in the siting of sensors, looking at the pros and cons of citizen science, newspaper articles, interview with Shaw, general PM 2.5 research.

- **Alberni Climate Action: dedicated to reducing the carbon footprint of our community**

- Alberni Climate Action, a newly formed group of citizens who are working on provincial and more particularly local responses, to the climate crisis.
- Wanting to check in with municipal and regional governments surrounding where they are at regarding past commitments. (I.e. the City's Climate Action Charter)

- **Call for input for city survey regarding revitalization strategy of uptown area**

- The city has put a call out to stakeholders to provide input by the end of this week to help shape the priorities of a survey which will be going out re. uptown revitalization.
- primary themes are poverty reduction, crime prevention, arts, culture and recreation, business and economic activity, transportation, parking and mobility, housing and development.
- Jade has asked if the AQC have a question they would like to be included/considered during the engagement process? Feedback is being sought by the end of this week. (A bit more info seen here: <https://www.portalberni.ca/news/june-8-2020-1214pm/city-receives-ubcm-grant-support-uptown-district-revitalization-strategy>).
- most of the ensuing discussion was not so much around air quality but rather the overwhelming issue of poverty, lack of nutrition and homelessness. Jade provided a link to the Island Health document: public encampments during COVID-19. See link. <http://ncceh.ca/documents/guide/environmental-public-health-guidance-encampments-during-covid-19-pandemic>

-Large trucks using the 3rd Avenue corridor as a transportation route has been previously mentioned and alternative route identified. At this point, not many commercial trucks are being used in this area. May change, post COVID.

6. NEXT MEETING

-Thursday, Jan. 7th, 2020 2pm via Zoom

-Presentation suggestions:

- Alberni Climate Action on their goals and objectives

- Jade Yehia on new fact sheets (health data and wildfire smoke) that she has been developing

- Tarek on summarizing the PM_{2.5} trends in the Alberni Valley over time. Can the AQC say that improvements are occurring regarding air quality in the valley?

Meeting adjourned at 3:24