

Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable
 April 29, 2008
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Minutes of the Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable meeting held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

PRESENT: D. McMillan, Chair
 Councillor Coralee Oakes, City of Quesnel
 M. Glassford, Cariboo Regional District
 R. Raynor, Director of Emergency Services
 E. Plain, Ministry of Environment
 N. Zirnelt, Ministry of Environment
 R. Grimm, Ministry of Environment
 G. Johnston, Tolko
 W. Strang, Cariboo Pulp & Paper
 K. Carter, Cariboo Pulp and Paper
 W. Wiebe, Ministry of Transportation
 A. Rankin, Quesnel River Pulp
 T. Bond, Baker Creek Enhancement Society
 P. Doherty, Quesnel Climate Change Group
 V. Johnson, Labor Council
 S. Newell, Westpine MDF
 B. Steeves, Northern Health
 A. Dagleish, C & C Wood Products
 S. Kwasny, HVM Services

ABSENT:
 S. Levitt, Ministry of Forests
 R. Keith, Canfor/Quesnel Waste Disposal
 M. Ellifson, West Fraser
 M. Westergard, North Star Lumber & West Fraser Sawmill
 C. Finch, Quesnel Plywood

The purpose of this Roundtable meeting was to receive reports back from stakeholders on progress made in terms of improvements that would affect air quality over the 2007 calendar year. It is acknowledged that not much time has passed since the last reporting out session (October 3, 2007) so this summary mainly includes additions to those details included in the October 3rd minutes. The Ministry of Environment was also to provide a summary of air quality measurements to the end of 2007 and report on any trends.

W. Strang indicated to the group that Bob Salmons has retired from Cariboo Pulp and Paper. Any well wishes can be directed via e-mail to Paula.sword@westfraser.com for compilation. The new Engineering, Maintenance and Technical Manager, Keith Carter, was introduced to the Roundtable.

D. McMillan noted that West Fraser was having their Annual General Meeting today so a few key people would be absent as a result.

City of Quesnel, R. Raynor & C. Oakes - highlights and discussion (report incorporated):

Report:

Mitigation of dust from paved and unpaved sources has been carried out this Spring by the use of Magnesium Chloride and early deployment of street sweeping.

The City continued to use a coarser traction material in the downtown area. 3/8 minus traction material was used in all other areas is mixed with Magnesium Chloride.

The City has looked at adopting a bylaw that requires local businesses, whether industrial or commercial, to clean and maintain their parking lots and roadways, by:

- a. introducing minimum specifications for winter traction material used on such parking lots/roadways;
- b. requiring timely, aggressive spring cleanup as well as seasonal maintenance, through the use of wet sweeping or a vacuum sweeper; and
- c. requiring effective dust control throughout the spring, summer, and fall, whether the lot/road is paved or not.

The City continues to advertise that burning is not permitted within City Limits and this is enforced through our Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

The City has received no complaints regarding smoke from wood burning appliances.

The City will hold its next woodstove exchange program in 2009.

The Bryce Road trail will be expanded under Highway 97 in 2008 if grants are received. *approved*

Public transit may be expanded in September, pending council approval

The Official Community Plan was adopted with the following wording: *As a member of the Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable, work to improve air quality by recognizing the Airshed Management Plan and considering the recommendations in making land use community planning decisions.*

The Airshed Management Plan continues to be posted to the City's website.

Discussion:

The City has plans to pursue a more comprehensive clean air bylaw in 2008 but more background information is required to help council support such an initiative. It was noted that the Airshed Plan contains a lot of background material that can be used and that the Prince George Clean Air Bylaw may provide us with a good starting point for a similar bylaw for Quesnel.

Action: E. Plain to provide the most up to date version of the Prince George Clean Air Bylaw to Roundtable members as a template (*Completed May 1, 2008*). R. Raynor to highlight sections that are applicable to the Quesnel area and work on background material.

C. Oakes noted that budgets are only being approved right now. However, some additional plans for 2008/09 include expanding transit to fringe areas and expanding the existing trail network to the 2-Mile Flat area.

No new movement on a possible a truck route to divert truck traffic around the downtown area - still pursuing with MOT. Would a letter from the Roundtable (reference to AMP recommendations 5.2.6 – transportation and reduced carbon emissions) assist the process?

Cariboo Regional District – Mary Glassford reported the following:

M. Glassford has approached Mr. Faulkland about designing rumble strips for areas entering the community to help remove dirt from logging trucks. W. Weibe indicated that this not MOT's preference.

It was noted that there has been an increase in burning at CRD wood-waste collection sites (permits issued by MOE) as the volume of material coming from residential areas hit by the MPB are still very large. Hauling this material to the chipping/composting area hosted by the City is too expensive. The CRD is asking people to do more reduction work at home to reduce volumes.

One CRD Director has been pushing for an expansion to wheel chair accessible trail development (~ 200 total km proposed). Gibraltar mines has agreed to donate 54" wide rubber belts to be used for this project. 13.5 km of trails already developed in the City of Quesnel fringe area.

The CRD fringe OCP is being renewed. This will be a good opportunity to look at including a number of AMP recommendations – open burning and solid fuel burning appliances.

Cariboo Pulp and Paper, Wayne Strang - highlights and discussion (report attached)

Noted improvement in Recovery Boiler fine particulate emissions as a result of work done on the precipitator fields in 2006 and 2007. Reductions of approximately 96 tonnes of particulate from this source from 2005 to 2007 (~ 50% reduction). Have also seen particulate reductions from the Limekiln and Dissolving tank as a result of improved scrubber control and maintenance.

Power boiler emissions have increased as a result of increased hog burning. Increases from 2005 to 2007 of approximately 74 tonnes of particulate (mostly PM2.5) – still within permit limits. Examining bio-energy options through BC Hydro. If CPP decides to expand its hog burning capacity to generate energy that will be sold back to BC Hydro, emissions controls on the existing stack would likely be examined at that time and possibly upgraded. BC MOE has proposed new standards for particulate from these types of boiler operations.

Continue to work on TRS reductions. Annual dredging of spill basin to keep TRS under control – spill basin TRS emissions can have a large impact in the downtown area.

Increased utilization of hog boiler power has resulted in roughly a 50% reduction in GHG generation (less natural gas burned) since 1990.

Ministry of Transportation, Wes Wiebe - highlights and discussion:

Ministry of Transportation and HMC Services are continuing to be proactive to improving air quality in Quesnel and the surrounding area.

The increased application of dust stabilization compounds continues on the routes coming into Quesnel that have been impacted by the pine beetle kill (logging roads). This is reducing the air borne dust particles in the out lying areas, and from dust tracking into the downtown area.

Ministry of Transportation continues to partner with the city of Quesnel to provide biking and walking trails within the city limits.

All Ministry vehicles are equipped with alternate fuels.

All BC government employees are required to use a system called SMARTEC which calculates our carbon footprint resulting from government travel.

HMC Services, Sandy Kwasny - highlights and discussion:

HMC has improved the timing for the seasonal maintenance program to allow for early spring sweepings. They also have the ability to apply chemical dust suppressants (brine) prior to sweeping allowing sweeping to take place near freezing temperatures. The early sweeping program is almost complete.

A dust suppression contract begins May 1st.

HMC Services have added new cutting edges to some of the graders which reduce friction and saves on fuel. The new cutting edges are for use on paved (snow & ice) and unpaved surfaces.

An anti-idling policy is in place at HMC and equipment has been fitted with automatic shut-off switches. This has already resulted in fuel savings of ~ 30% and will benefit air quality.

Northern Health, Brian Steeves

New to the Quesnel area. Background was a focus on indoor air quality. Working with new Medical Health Officer Dr. William Osei out of Prince George.

D. McMillan asked that Interior Health bring forward any new information on PM2.5 and health to the Roundtable. T. Bond asked Brian to provide links to new information on PM2.5 that can be placed on the new website.

Ministry of Environment, E. Plain – highlights and discussion (presentation attached)

E. Plain reviewed source changes in PM2.5 and PM10 in the community and compared ambient levels to provincial objectives and community goals.

PM2.5 summary comments:

- Longer term averages – improvements over last three years particularly at QSS and Maple Drive
- 98th percentile values have generally levelled off at MD and Correlieu; have decreased at QSS

- Good Improvement in PM2.5 levels that exceed HRL and Provincial Objectives (W. Quesnel -> 0 in 2008)
- Positive stakeholder progress; education program progress
- AQ Assessment indicated the need for large point sources to make source reductions if long-term goals to be met. Some completed.
- All stakeholders need to continue to review operations for improvements as opportunities arise
- Clean air bylaw development needed – City/CRD
- Quesnel Urban Fringe area needs attention

PM10 summary comments:

- West Quesnel met “no exceedance” goal in 2007; Meets 2010 goal.
- Maple Drive virtually no change since mid-1990’s.
- Downtown area improvements in Annual average and exceedances – driven by meteorology and source changes: aggregate/sweeping changes by city; cyclone upgrades; dust control
- PM10 continues to be a major challenge (road dust)
 - All stakeholders have to continue to be diligent
 - Drainage plan/sweeping in 2-Mile Flat
 - Clean air Bylaw development? Sweeping, track-out, etc.
 - Bypass development?
 - Point source control works (e.g. cyclone upgrades)

Action: E. Plain to circulate a link to the ‘PM2.5 summary of public comments’ to the group (*completed May 1st*).

The fine particulate speciation study in downtown Quesnel was briefly discussed. Samples will be collected until March of 2009. The Cariboo woodstove exchange program will be held in spring of 2009. The provincial government grant of \$250/stove traded in will add to the Roundtable incentive (\$300 was used during the 2007 campaign) and should help to get more stoves upgraded.

The outdoor wood-fired boiler issue was discussed again. The province is in the early stages of reviewing existing legislation with the intention of including OWBs under a revised solid-fuel burning appliances regulation. It is likely that we will see restrictions placed on the manufacture and sale of units sold in BC similar to what is in effect for woodstoves (e.g. must be emissions certified to be sold by retailers). However, it is uncertain as to what effect changes to the regulation will have on units that are already installed and are causing complaints. Complimentary community and Regional District bylaws are needed to deal with nuisance aspects and to proactively deal with OWB siting requirements - could include things such as setbacks and stack heights.

The outdoor wood-fired boiler issue was discussed again. The province is in the early stages of reviewing existing legislation with the intention of making changes to reduce impacts from OWBs. It is likely that we will see a restriction placed on the sale of units sold in BC similar to what is in effect for woodstoves (e.g. must be emissions certified to be sold by retailers). However, these changes will not help us in terms of units that are already installed and are causing complaints. Nor will it help in terms of continued misapplication of the technology (installations on small lots in residential areas; small load requirements creating

excessive smoke). In addition, it would not stop the private sale of currently installed units. Complimentary community and Regional District bylaws are needed to deal with nuisance aspects and to proactively deal with OWB siting requirements - could include things such as setbacks and stack heights.

The upcoming CRD Quesnel urban fringe area OCP review may be a good opportunity to pursue this further.

Ministry of Environment, R. Hamilton – Environmental Management Section

R. Hamilton reported that MOE completed an assessment of cyclones at wood products mills in the Quesnel airshed in 2007. This work is in support of AMP recommendation 5.2.2 to “ensure all permits and regulated activities consistently meet current standards and are in compliance”. The assessment examined the number, type, and age of cyclones used at area mills in order to determine if this area offered any opportunities for improvement to the Quesnel airshed. In summary, there appears to be opportunities for small, incremental improvement over time through upgrading design standard requirements, fugitive dust management initiatives and targeting poor performing cyclones for future upgrades. Operating permits will also be updated as time permits to better reflect actual flows, and maintenance requirements may be amended.

Ministry of Environment, R. Grimm - Environmental Management Section

R. Grimm discussed how the Environmental Management section has begun to structure their compliance workplans to help Quesnel meet its long-term targets for air quality.

Discussion focused around the following activities:

- Reduced dusting from industrial and waste sites
- Reduced and improved efficiency of open burning
- Improved maintenance and reduced bypassing of treatment works
- Improved treatment of emissions

C&C Wood Products, A. Dagleish

Nothing new to report. Continue doing what’s already being done in terms of on-site dust suppression, etc.

West Pine MDF, S. Newell (report incorporated)

2007

- Controlling board emissions to meet current voluntary formaldehyde standards
- Continue to improve efficiency of our energy system. Continue to maximize use of sander dust in energy system (reduce dust going to landfill)
- Semi-annual stack testing completed (in compliance with permit requirements)
- Installed new sander dust briquetter in earl 2007 to reduce amount of sander dust going to landfill.
- Paved yard swept monthly from spring to fall

- Upgraded existing dry fuel blower system to reduce airborne particulate when transferring dry fuel to energy cell.

Working on currently:

- Continue with annual road maintenance with dust suppression
- Continue to optimize use of sander dust briquetter
- Continue to minimize use of belt for moving dry fuel – will reduce airborne PM

Future work:

- Determine most efficient way to reduce board emissions in order to comply with upcoming CARB legislation
- Investigate options to improve AQ around the raw materials truck tipper area

Quesnel River Pulp, A. Rankin - highlights (report attached).

Continue to investigate control of low level TRS sources (effluent ponds) at mill especially when certain types of equipment are shut down.

Apply 2 applications of dust suppressant per year on unpaved areas at mill site.

Continue to examine ways to reduce miles traveled. Currently spreading sludge on a site closer to the mill site.

Energy consumption down per tonne of pulp produced.

Tolko, Greg Johnston – report incorporated:

- The Burner that was on Tolko property and jointly managed by Quesnel Waste Disposal (Canfor-West Fraser-Tolko) no longer exists
- We are no longer running three shifts five days a week. In 2007 we ran two shifts for the entire year. This translates to a reduction of about 25 % less yard traffic on non paved areas.
- Spring sweeping on paved areas has already been done for 2008. This is also done as required during the course of the year.
- New ATL machines which burn fuel more efficiently (sulphur emission for the diesel fuel would expected to be reduced and better land utilization).
- We did a better job of watering road ways in 2007. (Modifications & efficiencies)
 - New water truck purchased in 2007
- Mobile Equipment not to idle through breaks.
- Elimination of one loader per shift.
- Using a courser material for sanding in the winter (less dust)
- Increased use of Video Conferencing (Save travel and fuel)
- Participated in the 2007 Cyclone Survey (MOE initiative)
- On our own initiative had Brownmiller road swept along Quest's property line.
- Due to reclaiming the old burner site for log storage we no longer transfer wood across Brownmiller Road which reduces traffic and dust.

Action: Greg to send photos of the dismantling of the Quesnel beehive burner for web page posting.

Public Education, T. Bond, Baker Creek Enhancement Society (highlights)

- We coordinated the Environmental Mind Grind on April 25 at Ecole Baker. 16 teams competed in a jeopardy style competition. Perhaps next year we can partner up to get Williams Lake involved. The questions included an Air Quality component. Shaw Cable and the Cariboo Observer covered the event.
- Completed a number of written articles throughout the year and sent to the paper (seasonal themes). The editor is still trying to get them in the paper but due to the paper being cut back in space she is having difficulty fitting them in.
- There are also articles that have been forwarded to the CRD newsletter and they will print if they have space.
- Earth Day which is held over two days and hosts over 500 children with numerous volunteers - has a couple of stations dedicated to air quality. We also host a public event that includes information/activities on Air Quality.
- We are once again coordinating a Clean Air Day activity as well as a week long commuter challenge. Jeanine and Chrysta (Williams Lake education coordinator) will be working together to maximize funding for advertising.
- Baker Creek Enhancement Society in partnership with the City of Quesnel is hosting an idle free ambassador from May until August. With time and workplan permitting we will try to make the ambassador available for Williams Lake as well for special events or programs. When Jeannine completes her workplan I will forward so Chrysta knows what time may be available.
- Shaw Cable has filmed a number of information spots on wood burning and air quality issues.
- Have completed first draft of Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable Website: see quesnelairshed.org

Action: Forward any idling 'hotspots' to Tracy for Idling ambassador program consideration

CANFOR & Quesnel Waste Disposal, Ron Keith – not in attendance, report submitted via e-mail:

Items to report for 2007 winter, spring 2008

- Invested approx. \$ 1,500,000 in replacing dry kiln walls and roofs, and new electronic controls for kilns. Benefits are shorter dry kiln times, more efficient drying of lumber. This has resulted in approx. 15 % reduction in natural gas consumption.
2008 Update
Continue to work with new kiln controls to reduce gas consumption where possible.
- Made some improvements to our hog recovery system to increase volumes of bark that is recovered and sent to Cariboo Pulp. This decreases volumes sent to Quesnel Waste Disposal burner and or landfill.
2008 Update

Improvements made to hog recovery system and other wood waste collection systems to maximize utilization of wood waste into useable forms, i.e. hog fuel or chips.

QWD burner shutdown December 2007.

- Continued program of dust suppression on our mill site, using water. Plan to investigate use of other dust suppressants as well for next year.

2008 Update

Ongoing

- Scheduled deliveries of logs from bush to sawmill on a "Just-in-time basis", to allow logs to be feed directly into the sawmill. We are also targeting lower log inventory levels for break-up period. The benefits to the air shed of these two items are less re-handling of logs in our yard, less activity; less dust, lower fuel consumption from re-hauls. Also, less breakage of logs, less waste to landfill.

2008 Update

Log inventory at end of March 2008 was much lower than in previous years, resulting in significantly less re-handling of logs this year.

Quesnel Plywood, Chris Finch (report text incorporated below)

Report e-mailed to E. Plain following the meeting.

Mill Activities that have a Positive Effect on Air Quality in Our Community:

1. By-Product Generation and Use

- Increased sorting of Log Yard Clean-up and Contaminated Hog Fuel into useable products as opposed to being sent to the burner for disposal.
- Blue Chip recovering all chip-able material. Installed a waste grizzly system in log yard to efficiently separate waste streams and reduce the utilization of diesel powered equipment.
- Purchased an Allu bucket to aid in waste separation.

2. Vehicle Impacts

- Ongoing application of dust suppressants on roads and yards. This is scheduled for a mid to late May application.
- Ongoing application of water for dust control in log yards.
- Ongoing use of sweepers as required.
- Log transfers between Quesnel Plywood and Northstar Lumber have been significantly reduced.
- Use of coarser traction material for sanding.
- No idling program in place.
- All forklifts are run on propane versus diesel for lower emission levels

3. Process Equipment

- Continued monitoring and maintenance of hog boiler to ensure operation below permitted levels.
- Ongoing vacuum clean up dust particulate in facility to reduce airborne particles. Designed our own in house high powered vacuum system.

Northstar Lumber, M. Westergard (report text incorporated below)

Report e-mailed to E. Plain following the meeting.

Mill Activities that have a Positive Effect on Air Quality in Our Community

1. Raw Material Impacts

- Log Length: The mill operated the entire year as a 100% CTL facility, (Cut To Length = CTL) This has resulted in decreased log breakage and waste at our mill site,
- Species: Increase usage of Spruce, Pine, and Balsam (SPF) as opposed to Douglas Fir. SPF has less bark and resulting debris.

2. By-Product Generation and Use

- All SPF sawdust is shipped to West Pine to make saleable product (MDF) as opposed to being burnt in Cariboo Pulp & Paper's energy system.
- All planer shavings are sold to Pinnacle Pellet.
- Increased sorting of Log Yard Clean-up and Contaminated Hog Fuel into useable products as opposed to being sent to the burner for disposal.
- Implemented a short term Whole Log Chipping Program to deal with Pulpwood from the woods and broken debris from the logyard.

3. Emissions from Process Equipment

- SPF including bug killed pine requires less kiln time resulting in less kiln and energy system use.
- SPF generates less dust during debarking.

4. Vehicle Impacts

- Log transfers between Quesnel Plywood and Northstar Lumber has virtually been eliminated with the vast majority of logs delivered to site being processed through the plant.
- Ongoing application of dust suppressants on travel routes and in log yards.
- Ongoing use of sweepers as required.
- Use of coarser traction material for sanding.
- Anti-idling for mobile equipment program on site.

P. Doherty, Quesnel Climate Change Group

- A climate change action group has been formed in Quesnel.
- Working with Quesnel city council to help them meet their GHG commitments.
- Identifying things that people can do on their own to feel part of the solution.

greenhouse gas

Next meeting to be in Fall 2008. Possibly bring in guest speaker for group.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM