



Bulkley Valley – Lakes District
Airshed Management Plan
www.bvldamp.ca

Morice District

Minutes

Monday, March 24, 2003

NWCC, Houston

Attendance: Christine Rigby (Air Quality Meteorologist - WLAP), Ian Sharpe (Environmental Quality Section Manager – WLAP), Laurie Gallant (Facilitator - Footprint Environmental), Leroy Reitsma, Dave Jellett, Garth Ehalt, Bill Bristow, Carlie Kearns, Harold Ludditt

Regrets:

Will check with Coordinating Committee.

Jargon and Acronyms:

BVLD – Bulkley Valley – Lakes District

WLAP – BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (generally we are referring to the Skeena Region office based in Smithers)

CWG – Community Working Group

CHOKED – Community Health Opposition to Known Emission Dangers (citizen group active in BVLD, based in Smithers)

RDBN - Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Licensees – entities (i.e. saw mill) that hold a WLAP permit for resource burning

LRMP – Land and Resource Management Plan

MSRM – Min. of Sustainable Resource Management

RWG – Regional Working Group for Airshed Management Plan (not yet formed)

Speciation modelling – Species composition of particulates to determine source.

Documents distributed or presented at meeting:

1. Backgrounder for the Community Working Groups (posted on www.bvldamp.ca)
2. Power point presentation (posted on www.bvldamp.ca)

Start Time: 7:05 pm

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Expectations/Interests of each CWG participant
3. Overview of BVLD airshed planning process (Powerpoint presentation)
4. Building a framework for how the Lakes District CWG will operate
5. Next meeting and agenda

Decisions and points of consensus:

Introductions and Interests

- Questions raised on dispersion modelling – can we isolate one source and determine impacts?
Can we get data on seasonal variations?
- Planning process will be science-based but common sense will further help us determine what the emission sources are and the impacts they are having.
- The process model is an idea; we can play with it any way we want as long as the final goal of having a new Plan in about 12 months is reached

CWG Membership

- Decent representation of interests; identified the following gaps:
 - Youth (interests can be represented by teachers but also can have youth guests!)
 - Education (Leroy has two teacher contacts)
 - First Nations – particular interest in berry harvesting links
 - Regulatory – Forestry and Agriculture (Ian will recruit as needed)
 - Local Government (suggested Tom Hoeuverman or Nick Powell)
 - Tourism/small aircraft navigators
 - Home heating appliance vendors
 - Expertise on alternatives to burning (can have guest speakers)
 - Farmers (many at table already have this background)
 - Economic Development (Local government? Chamber?)
 - Health (represented to some extent by Carlie as an asthmatic and also Harold as a former paramedic and current first-aid ticket holder)
- Need to recruit to fill these gaps.
- Need to think about representatives for Regional Working Group

Framework

- Backgrounder lays out three-step process – present state of air quality, desired state, and pathways – consensus that this is a good formula.
- Important to set goals - compare with provincial and national targets and desired quality of life
- Important to set indicators – will need session on how to select and use indicators.
- Would like to start with a Plan template and fill in gaps as we go along;
- Request made for 5 yr historical data by month for AQ readings in Houston
- Emphasis made on committing to goal and process, and being prepared for meetings
- Information requests made related to health data – correlating cigarette and Ventilin sales with Air Quality readings; comparisons with similar communities; can ask Northern Health Authority
- Questions regarding communications protocol – “living” protocol exists now – Laurie can make a short presentation and circulate document used by Coordinating Committee.
- Discussion on resources for planning process; Leroy and Ian are looking for funding; leadership within CWGs is important ie. Rotating chair, whip, and scribe-facilitator will provide support as needed.
- Consensus that monthly meetings split up evenly between learning and doing would work; will meet the second Wednesday of every month from 7 pm to 9 pm at Northwest Community College.

Announcements:

1. Burn It Smart woodstove workshops are coming to our region in the fall as part of a provincial initiative.
2. There are nine proponents interested in working on the proposed Pleasant Valley Co-gen plant.
3. Katimavik youth can set up displays and be trained to respond to basic questions on air quality; will need help with transportation.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 9th 7 – 9 pm
Wednesday, May 14th 7 – 9 pm
Wednesday, June 11th 7 – 9 pm

Will confirm NWCC as venue NB:coffee is forcing people to stay awake; can weaken it some ☺

Agenda Items:

1. Health effects of air quality.
2. Applications and limitations of modelling; Interpretation of historical data; provincial comparisons.
3. Setting goals for the Morice Plan.

Chair: Harold

Scribes: Bill – Decision Points

Laurie – Template/Notes

Summary of Action Items: I/P means in progress; will be completed by meeting.

	ACTION	Who	Deadline	Status
1	Communications protocol to be distributed and short presentation made at next meeting.	Laurie	April 2	I/P
2	Health research requests to Northern Health Authority	Laurie	March 31	I/P
3	Historical data for Houston AQ	Christine	April 2	Attached
4	Read through Backgrounder – feedback needed.	ALL	Next meeting	
5	Send schedule of meetings to local government	Leroy	April 2	
6	Fill in membership gaps for Morice CWG	ALL	Always ☺	???
7	Provide template for new Plan and distribute copies of 1999 plan	Christine and Laurie	Next meeting	I/P
8	Book meeting room for next 3 months	Laurie	March 31	I/P
9	Agenda planning and presentation prep	Laurie and Christine	April 2	I/P April 3
10	Dave to invite his daughter to attend CWG meetings	Dave	Dave's call	

Adjourn at: 9:30 pm with permission by all in attendance.

Minutes recorded by: Laurie Gallant