



bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

Proceedings of the 2006

BVLD Clean Air Plan Review and Community Forum

Thursday, June 15th, 2006

Houston Senior's Centre – Main hall, 3250 14th Ave Houston

Please see documents posted at <http://cleanairplan.ca/2006AGMProceedings.shtml> for further information.

Attendance: Jeremy Penninga, John Spagnol, Cindy Verbeek, Nikki Skuce, Barb Hall, AJ Downie, Greg Meredith, Jeffrey Anderson, Greg Tamblyn, August Miller, Borden Armstrong, Bill Goodacre, Nora Kerr, , Leroy Reitsma, Joanne Dickenson, Ben Weinstein, Paul Schwarz, Doug Bysouth, Frits Goossen, Dave Stevens, Tony Wakelin, Stephanie Meyne, Carlie Kearns, Serge Mazerand, Pilly Mazerand, Laurie Gallant, Jennifer Holtz. *Regrets: Ian Sharpe*

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – Laurie Gallant, Facilitator for AMS
2. **Energy Centre of the North** – Project Update by Greg Meredith
 - Greg gave an overview of the history of the ECN project, noting that the Energy Centre of the North Society is promoting clean, smart energy solutions and supports the Clean Air Plan. Partnerships for implementing projects such as the Wood Stove Exchange have been discussed.
 - The District of Houston and Chamber of Commerce won a bid to be the home of a state of the art facility to house this project.
 - A business plan has been created (written by Laurie Gallant of Footprint in consultation with a regional multi-stakeholder group) and CFDC Nadina Houston continues to shepherd the project.
 - An overview of the provincial Energy Savings Plan project was provided, along with an update of the federal EnerGuide program. This program was recently cancelled but may be revived if it can be administered on a provincial level. The valley currently has three (3) certified Energuide advisors: Terry Fuljames, Kevin Koch, and Greg Brown.
 - A handout was given out regarding the District of Houston pilot project to provide homeowners with grants to reduce energy costs through energy efficiency. For more information:
 - <http://www.cfdcnadina.ca/html/environment/energycentre/>
 - <http://www.saveenergynow.ca/houston>
 - Kevin Koch, EnerGuide Advisor and Energy Centre of the North Society director koch@unbc.ca, (250)846-5915

3. **CANFOR Houston Energy Project Update** by Leroy Reitsma

- Leroy presented schematics for the new energy system and pellet manufacturing plant
- Construction began April 1, 2006; hope to have operations running before the end of the year
- CANFOR Houston should be completely independent of their beehive burner in time for the permit extension deadline of December 31, 2007
- this project represents a huge achievement and the end of a long story
- See press release posted at cleanairplan.ca
- Questions from the audience:
 - Emissions comparison of new system versus beehive burner? *Significantly less, don't have exact numbers.*
 - Economic viability? *Acceptable; would not do if beehive burner did not exist.*
 - Capacity for taking feedstock from other mills? *Not sure yet – will know once we are operating*

4. **Energy Smart Smithers** - project update by Nikki Skuce of One Sky

- Nikki provided an overview of her organization One Sky, based in Smithers
- One Sky and AMS partnered to offer the first ever Clean Air Day in Smithers last week
- One Sky partnered with Town of Smithers to be part of Energy Savings Plan pilot project (same as Houston)
- A brochure has been produced called Energy Smart Smithers full of information and tips on energy efficiency and available financial incentives for homeowners
- See <http://www.town.smithers.bc.ca/pdfs/ds/ESS%20Brochure%20may19.pdf>
- For info on One Sky visit: <http://onesky.ca/index.html>

5. **Ambient Air Quality Assessment for 2005** – Ben Weinstein.

- See copy of presentation posted at cleanairplan.ca
- Ben reviewed goals, indicators, and strategies as outlined in Ch. 3 of the Clean Air Plan as well as the 2003 Emission Inventory – contribution by source for PM10 and PM2.5
- Contributions change by source depending on what you are measuring.
- Percentages are on an annual basis over the entire airshed; do not always describe contributions at receptors – i.e. people, monitors
- How to interpret plumes – low hanging, big clouds are likely residential sources; single plumes with upward motion typically industrial
- Potential source indicators:
 - Venting conditions
 - PM2.5/10 split in Houston, Smithers (and soon Burns Lake) PM10 is typically dust.
 - Look outside
- AQ Episode History – in 2005 the BVLD airshed experienced 19 air quality advisories; in 1998 we had 33.
- Questions from the audience
 - What is an air quality episode in real life?
 - Can we show episodes by community?
 - Correlating episodes with el ninos – i.e. 1997 and 1998

- Monitoring network – PM_{2.5} for Burns Lake. Participant noted that AQ must have improved when his welding shop burnt down.

6. Update on Dispersion Modelling Project – Stephanie Meyne

- see presentation at cleanairplan.ca
- suggested that AMS adopt a new co-indicator to assess effectiveness of Clean Air Plan – how many scenarios are run and how is this information used?
- Questions from the audience:
 - how much time in future will be spent for BVLD Airshed?
 - Can we run different years to focus on bad episodes?
 - *Stephanie wants more consultation with AMS; is hoping that AMS can provide specific scenario requests in next few months.*
 - Burning in the Bulkley 2002 looked accurate to Paul Schwarz.

7. Clean Air Plan Review – Laurie Gallant

- see presentation at cleanairplan.ca
- Laurie reviewed process for amending the Clean Air Plan and presented suggestions received during the year. The following feedback was offered:
- New sources: i.e. mining developments
 - important to distinguish between known and potential sources.
 - Can offer workshop with local government to identify strategies for managing for potential new sources
 - Provide information on existing Environmental Assessment process, Environmental Management Act, Waste Discharge Act and current and best management strategies
 - Important to understand existing permitting process
 - Climate change impacts might be included here
 - Is there funding under New Deal to manage road dust
- CN Rail
 - 50 new locomotives being brought on to service port in Rupert – what emission standards will these engines meet?
 - A lot of work being done in lower Fraser Valley
 - Draft letter with questions
- Commuter Traffic
 - Where is used oil going?
 - Can we accommodate vehicle alternative when repairing highway
 - Need more public education
- Agricultural balewrap
 - Water group could look at this issue as relationships are already established
 - Can we offer suggestions in some type of “sustainability directory”
- Reduce Slash Burning
 - Morice LRMP has air quality objective
 - Can emphasis reduction in future workshops
 - Clean Air Plan needs to address change in timber grading
 - Interpretation of pile and burn seems to vary – more education needed?
- Global warming
 - Noted that ECN funding was contingent on existence of Clean Air Plan

- Need to think globally, act locally (note this is addressed in Chapter 2)
- Jeff Anderson and Laurie Gallant applied for funding to research relationship between the Aleutian Low Pressure Index, El Nino, La Nina, and potential episode days under a new provincial funding envelope for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Beehive burners
 - Why are there no phase out dates for Tier 2 burners?
- Air Quality Advisories
 - Can we use Interior News Website
 - Plead with radio stations to announce AQ advisories
 - AMS members to help spread word – coffee shops are a great place to do this.

9. Update on MOE Woodstove Exchange Pilot Project – Tony Wakelin

- see presentation at cleanairplan.ca
- MOE hired consultants and local outreach officers to conduct questionnaires and focus groups to determine barriers to changing out woodstoves and incentives that would increase the success of a second exchange program
- Results of this research will be compiled into a report and recommendations will be formulated to design a new program
- A review panel will comment on the report including Ben Weinstein and Laurie Gallant and AMS will be asked to implement the project
- Timelines? Hoping to do this within this fiscal year, ending March 31, 2007.

10. Closing Comments – Laurie Gallant

Thanks to everyone for engaging in discussions. Thanks also to our presenters, organizers, and exhibitors including the Houston Recycling Society, One Sky, BC Ministry of Environment, Town of Smithers, Northern Health, and A Rocha Canada - Christians in Conservation.

A separate report evaluating this event and making recommendations for next year will be available after the Board meeting on July 21, 2006.

The forum was adjourned at 9:30 pm.