



## bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

### Proceedings of the 5th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Burns Lake BC

The AGM was called to order at 3:15 pm.

**Attendance:** Ben Weinstein, Laurie Gallant, Frits Goossen, Doug Bysouth, Joanne Dickenson, Dave Duncan, Dave Stevens, Jennifer Hayek, AJ Downie, Uwe Gramann, Meg Hobson (One Sky), Barbara Oke (Northern Health), Greg Thibeault (Northern Health), Kay Mackareth (Burns Lake resident and original AMS member), Josh Massey (new member), Perry Royston (new member), Rebecca Billard (Lakes District News).

Regrets: Taylor Bacharach, Councillor for Village of Telkwa; Alison Walker, Planner for Town of Smithers, Jeff Anderson and Paul Schwarz - AMS Directors.

1. Welcome, AMS Mission Statement review and program highlights by Laurie Gallant. Laurie noted that the original Clean Air Plan was adopted 5 years ago and while significant gains have been made, new and old sources still need to be managed and therefore the work of AMS will continue and an addendum to the Plan is being prepared to provide guidance for the next 5 years. The addendum will be posted on our website and comments invited - we hope to have the new Plan finalized by August 30 and continue with annual reviews.
2. Opening song by Perry Royston.
3. Nominations and Elections. No new nominations received from the floor. New Board approved by acclamation as follows:

Position	Name	Representation
President	Dave Duncan	Public - Quick
Vice-president	Frits Goossen	Industry - Burns Lake
Treasurer	Laurie Gallant*	Public - Smithers
Secretary	Ben Weinstein	Gov - regional
Director - Local Government Liaison	Joanne Dickenson	Gov - Houston
Director	Dave Stevens	Public - Smithers
Director	AJ Downie	Gov - regional
Director	Paul Schwarz	Industry - Smithers
Director	Jeff Anderson	Public - Smithers

Director	Doug Bysouth	Industry - Burns Lake
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\* Laurie is currently under contract to AMS as the facilitator. The contract expires July 31.

The new Board was introduced, and then a call was made for new members. Four members were introduced and approved as follows:

Josh Massey	Telkwa
Perry Royston	Smithers
Barbara Oke*	Northern Health - Prince George
Greg Thibeault	Northern Health - Prince George

\* Barb may be interested in possibly becoming a board member, but needs to discuss with her employer first.

4. **AMS - Past, Present and Future.** Presentation by Laurie Gallant - posted at cleanairplan.ca.
5. **Treasury Report** by Joanne Dickenson. Year end statement for 2008 and current statement as of April 23, 2009. Financial statements were circulated.
6. Gone Fishin' song by Perry Royston.
7. **Screening of film:** Air - The Search for One Clean Breathe with introductory remarks by AMS President Dave Duncan. Dave noted that this film was also screened at the BC Clean Air Forum in Vancouver in March and that while the storyline focuses on an American community, the health issues and strategies used are relevant to the BVLVD airshed.

\*\* Break for BBQ dinner \*\*

8. River song by Perry Royston.
9. **2008/09 Custom Venting Forecast Season Report** by Uwe Gramman. Presentation posted on cleanairplan.ca.
  - Overview of context and purpose, comparison of benefits with Environment Canada forecast, how forecast is developed and what the official issued forecast looks like.
  - discussion on confidence level for 3 day forecast, and the season in numbers i.e. start day, end day of season, total number of forecasts issued, number of piles burned using CVF - roughly 24, 000 piles.
  - 80% of forecasts issued were accurate and would not have been changed for all northern forecasts last season. An acceptable level for this region is 70% or more.
  - Graph for number of favourable days reflects how many forecasts were issued. In some weeks, only one forecast is issued so number will be either 0 or 100%.
  - this draft report is available for comment over the next month, and the final report will be posted on the website and presented at the Burn Operator forum.

10. **BC Ministry of Environment's Annual Ambient Air Quality report** by departing and returning MOE Air Quality Meteorologists Jennifer Hayek and Ben Weinstein respectively.
- PM 2.5 at two locations in Hazelton - NWCC and New Hazelton Elementary School.
  - PM 2.5 in Telkwa - FDMS system is much more accurate and showing higher concentrations of pollutants.
  - Results of Goals and Indicators from Ch.3 of Clean Air Plan
    - 1. Decrease in PM2.5 concentrations - note only data for Houston before 2004 start of Clean Air Plan; in recent years more 2.5 monitoring has made it easier to track progress. We are below BC's annual objective of 8ug/m3 but not always below the BC Annual Planning Goal of 6ug/m3. Only in past two years have we seen a slight decrease, which was also noted in 2001 before Plan implementation started.
    - 2. Less than 1% of days as Air Quality Advisory days. Goal has not been met yet.
    - 3. Percentage of days where PM10 is at Advisory Level. A chart showing number of advisory days for each year indicates advisories were issued in Jan, Feb, Mar and December.
  - **Question from the floor: How important is meteorology as far as pollutant levels go?**
  - Response: This is an important factor, i.e. rain is helpful but so are emission sources and proximity of people to emission sources. Road dust causes many air quality advisories, important to clean streets asap after snow melt. 2008 chart now available showing number of AQ advisory days - note pattern of no days in summer, and more days in shoulder seasons.
  - Smithers Gas Concentrations vs time of day i.e. ground level ozone and nitrogen oxide. Ozone peaks in March/April since more sunlight is available but we still have reflection from snow off mountains. Nox peaks in winter months when less sunlight is available - may be due to higher levels of idling in winter and more driving hours in winter.
  - **Question from the floor: What are thresholds for health concerns for these two new pollutants not traditionally analyzed in BVLD?**
  - Response: They are different than PM10 - need to defer to health professionals. Nox is a PM precursor.

**11. Workshops - See attached for outcomes.**

- a) Emerging emission sources
- b) Integrating air quality protection into community planning

**12. Next Steps**

- Distribute proceedings to members and more consultation on two workshop topics
- Paperwork to file to protect our status – Society Annual Report and Revenue Canada income tax return; note change in Directors.
- Summer board meeting to confirm Plan amendments and workplan priorities
- Annual Burn Operators Forum - late August/early September

*Thank you to Immaculata Church for providing an excellent venue, to Frits Goossen of the Comfort Zone in Burns Lake for providing a BBQ, to Ministry of Environment for funding our event, and to all the presenters, Directors and members for attending today.*

The AGM was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

## **Integrating Air Quality Protection into Community Planning**

### **Contributing factors in decision-making that lead to poor air quality**

1. Purchasing policies that don't factor in environmental impacts i.e. buying bigger trucks
2. Poor transportation planning - need to design for alternatives to cars in new developments.
3. Ineffective use of zoning - need to site industrial areas away from populated areas.
4. Street maintenance policies - need to prioritize traction materials and spring cleaning schedules that reflect best practices for air quality protection.
5. Energy planning - need clean energy sources.

**Summary of tools that can be used by local government:** Zoning, Bylaws, Business Licenses, Taxation, Building Permits.

- provide incentives for businesses using clean technology (local and provincial government)
- educate contractors on green building practices that enhance indoor air quality as well as energy efficiency.
- Official Community Plans - compare with BC Accessibility program - very successful in meeting accessibility objectives.

Action items to aid development of best practices guide for local government. To be completed before 2010 AGM.

Contact Fraser Basin Council and Smart Growth BC for best practices that pertain to air quality protection.
Review the AMS letter to Town of Smithers re: OCP draft and pull out ideas i.e. sustainable development triggers - a check list of questions to ask developers.
Compile list of OCP review timelines for all BVLVD Airshed communities and submit Best Practices for incorporation during the public consultation periods.
Meet with regional and town planners to determine if zoning can be based on scientific/health related criteria as well i.e. keep residential and polluting industrial sites separate.
When developing presentations and documents, avoid finger-pointing and focus on the business case for changing status quo.

## Emerging Emission Sources

1. Mining
2. Transportation - Rail and Highway - Shipping
3. Biomass energy - pellet plants

### Significance of source to ambient air quality and public health

- 5 year horizon - Biomass likely to be more significant than mining; transportation sources affected by biomass energy and mining development.
- need profile data for each emission source to determine significance

### Relevant Regulations and Community Plans

- needs to be determined once details on process used are available
- may require MOE discharge permit
- rural and municipal OCPs
- BVLD Clean Air Plan
- LRMP
- Development permits
- CCME PM

### Emission reduction efforts to date

- Regulatory - need specifics
- Need to consult with key stakeholders

### Action Plan

Goals	Indicators	Strategies
Reduce airshed impact from source	no new sources within populated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locate out of populated area</li> <li>• intelligent analysis of siting options and impacts</li> </ul>
engagement work with stakeholders	company wins a Clean Air Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• position AMS as a stakeholder</li> <li>• set up meetings with decision-makers</li> </ul>