



bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

**Draft Minutes
BVLDAMS Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 4, 2007
11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Director Aurnir Nelson's home, Houston BC**

Attendance: Paul Schwarz, Dave Duncan, Richard Vossen, Ben Weinstein, Joanne Dickenson, Laurie Gallant (facilitator)

Regrets: Frits Goossen, Dave Stevens, Ian Sharpe

Agenda

1. Business, Announcements and Correspondence
2. Minutes from AGM
3. Clean Air Plan Amendments
4. Workplan Priorities
5. Other

Business, Announcements and Correspondence

- Welcome to Dave Duncan, Aurnir Nelson and Richard Vossen – first meeting as official Directors; Laurie has spoken with Dave Stevens about election outcomes and he is fine with current arrangement.
- Laurie conversed with Iqbal Kalsi of Northern Health re: Clean Air Award and funding for Woodstove Exchange Program. Support remains strong – award much appreciated. Draft cover letter has been prepared for award and newsletter – ACTION: Ben to review and mail.
- Contact list of Current Directors circulated for finalizing; charitable status tax return has been filed, Ben is filing Annual Report with Province of BC.
- Correspondence received from BC Transit re: Funding to put BVLD Woodstove Exchange marketing program into format for cleanairkit.ca website
- Correspondence received from BC Transit re: Funding for Clean Air Day (summer newsletter and Green Commuter Challenge pancake breakfast)
- Footprint contract with AMS to continue facilitation services until March 31, 2008 based on approved work plan – reviewed and signed by Directors and Laurie
- ACTION: Need to post message on bvldamp.ca website redirecting folks to cleanairplan.ca
- CANFOR video posted on website but only works with Apple Macs ACTION: Laurie to investigate, Aurnir to see if CANFOR will fund conversion of DVD file to QuickTime file (\$100)
- BC Clean Air Network conference call this morning – Dave Duncan and Laurie participated. Anti-idling, climate change, and garbage burning were dominant project themes. Noted that

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Laurie is working with Okanagan Airshed Coalition to produce an airshed management plan for the three Okanagan regional districts.

- Laurie attended BioEnergy workshop organized by Omenica Beetle Action Coalition (www.omenecacoalition.ca) and noted air quality was discussed several times in the context of energy sources and open burning – low to no awareness by event coordinators and speakers of our work and the expertise within our group. Laurie pointed out opportunity for current and accurate information regarding air quality, emission sources, and current practices and requested heightened efforts for two way dialogue. Points were well received by Mayor Sharon Hartwell.
- Dispersion Modelling Scenarios – new staff in Victoria will continue BVLD modelling work – we have gathered comments on scenarios we would like to see modelled at 2006 Burn Operators Forum – need to be strategic about what we ask for.

Review of AGM Proceedings

- ACTION: Ben and Laurie to review notes on Ben's presentation for clarity regarding PM trends by community
- Discussion on impact of beehive burner closures on PM levels – too early to say and too many other sources still active; ACTION: Ben to track down statistics on tonnage of wood burned in burners and work with Laurie to prepare a statement regarding air quality impacts.
- ACTION: Summer newsletter copies given to Aurnir and Richard for distribution in Houston and Burns Lake (municipal and Regional District offices)

Clean Air Plan Amendments

- No amendments from public requested this year – Laurie reviewed input from 2006 AGM and April 2007 Board meeting and noted some requests and action items are still relevant i.e. new sources and transportation; now that beehive burner closures have momentum as does the woodstove exchange program, we can look at taking on new projects.
- Discussion on expanding scope to include other pollutants – noted that other pollutants are reduced when PM is reduced i.e. wood stoves
- Executive Summary includes table of strategies and status of each ACTION: update Executive Summary to reflect milestones from the past year.
- Look at revising Chapter 10 on Road Dust to include Transportation in general as well as road dust from unpaved roads within communities or that affect communities;
- need to consult with Min. of Transportation staff and road maintenance contractors, as well as other stakeholders (i.e. truck drivers);
- are there Best Practices for Unpaved Roads? Ben to follow up.
- Noted that a concern was raised at 2006 AGM about dust on Buck Flats road from logging traffic
- Will specifically look at anti-idling bylaws and education in Ch. 10 as well.

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- Noted that less idling may become a natural result of higher gas prices. Paul relayed that PIR has passed an anti-idling policy to save on fuel costs.
- Good to start collecting photos of road dust within 20 km of communities
- Noted that Prince George has good strategies for reducing road dust
- Brief discussion on CN Rail emissions – no noticeable increase in emissions and no complaints received by anyone in the past twelve months but a director noted that train idling at Smithers train station can be an irritant to restaurant customers.
- Look for, develop and share tools that empower residents to take action on road dust
- Noted that Ben has requested funding to increase data quality for air quality monitors in Burns Lake – new equipment would help differentiate between smoke and road dust.
- ACTION: Add Chapter 10 revisions and consultation to Workplan as a priority.
- Chapter 11 – review and update – especially table of core activities. Replace Bulkley Valley Fall Fair with Community Education and Outreach.
- Chapter 3 – review and update Tables i.e. air quality advisories, general goals and indicators to include Canada Wide Standards as per 2006 AGM recommendations.

Workplan Priorities

- Chapter 11 – core activities
- Woodstove Exchange Program and Bylaw support (Dec 31 2010 target date!)
- Annual presentation and/or stats from Northern Health
- Clean Air Plan amendments as per above
- Implementation of Ch.10
- Develop, incorporate strategies for managing new sources into Plan, and work with stakeholders to implement
- ACTION: Laurie to prepare new workplan that takes in all feedback from AGM, Board meetings, and allows for cooperation with other agencies including BC Clean Air Network

Other Business

Woodstove Exchange Program Evaluation

- Laurie working with MOE to design evaluation template for all airshed groups and to evaluate our pilot project (separate funding from AMS workplan)
- Will want feedback from Directors for next version of program – interviews with all stakeholders to be completed by end of September
- How to improve on word of mouth advertising – how can directors be more proactive?
- Brainstorm list of places to put up posters in each community i.e. hockey arenas
- Look at highway billboards
- Will we have to work harder to get the next 100 changeouts or will it be easier as we get close to 2010 target date?

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- ACTION: supply directors with Woodstove Exchange “business cards” to pass out.

Burn Operators Forum and Smoke Management Plan Updates

- Forum planned for first week in September in Houston; will send out notice soon about date and place and request agenda input based on established template.
- Cliff Manning no longer in Burns Lake – now in Vanderhoof
- Smoke Management Plan meeting before Forum – more of a government/industry activity

Next meeting

- Traditionally in December
- E-mail will be used to execute workplan until then
- ACTION: LG to prepare workplan and circulate for approval; note Dave Stevens wants review of NEWPRO report.

Thanks very much to Aurnir for hosting and for the great burgers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.