

MINUTES BVL DAMS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday June 15th, 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Luftikus Restaurant, Smithers

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

Welcome & Finalize Agenda

- Attendees: Dave Duncan, Laurie Gallant, Shawna Scafe, AJ Downie, Joanne Dickenson, Paul Schwarz, Dave Stevens, Colin Macleod, Amelia Mattson, Josette Weir, Kari Bolen (Interior News Intern).
- Regrets: Ben Weinstein, Doug Bysouth, Frits Goossen

Air Quality Update - Ministry of Environment

- AJ Downie provided an update on ambient air quality in the BVL, using three posters (see attached presentation slides).
 - In addition to ongoing monitoring at continuous stations in Burns Lake, Houston, Telkwa and Smithers, the Ministry of Environment conducted a special study in Moricetown in the winter of 2009, and is continuing with a study in the Hazeltons to determine the best long-term monitoring location.
 - Air Quality results for particulate matter in the BVL continue to be high (relative to most other B.C. communities) and sometimes exceed Air Quality Objectives.
- *For future reference, there was interest in learning more about the chemical composition of PM, and the differences between PM2.5 and PM10.*
- *There was interest in discussing how local governments such as the RDKS can support air quality studies in their communities.*

Air Quality and Your Health Northern Health Authority

- Shawna Scafe provided an update on health concerns associated with air pollution, and shared some health statistics for northern B.C. (see attached presentation).
 - The reported prevalence of respiratory diseases in many communities in northern B.C. is higher than the provincial average. The Upper Skeena Local Health Area (LHA) has the highest rates, followed by Burns Lake and Smithers LHAs.
- *There was interest in the results of the UBC study on indoor air*

A.J. and/or Amelia will try to track down the results and circulate them or post them to the website.

quality and the use of air filters.

2009 Year-in-Review President's Update

- Dave Duncan described some of the activities undertaken by the AMS in 2009. These included:
 - Northern Health joining the Board of the AMS
 - Woody Debris Inventory completed
 - Annual Burn Operator Forum held
 - Woodstove Exchange Program expanded to include entire RDBN and RDKS
 - Woodstove Exchange program website upgraded
 - Addendums written and published
 - Abbreviated Custom Venting Forecasting Program administered, with positive feedback
 - Anti-idling work ongoing as needed
 - Prepared for a consultant's review of the 5-Year Community Action Plan for Clean Air (done in early 2010)

Woodstove Exchange Program (WSEP) Update from Coordinator

- Colin Macleod provided an update on the WSEP
 - Geographical boundaries were expanded to include entire regional districts
 - Last fall was the busiest fall ever
 - Total exchanges to date are approx. 515
 - There are approx 65-70 vouchers remaining
 - Planning to focus efforts on Houston this fall since there is a bylaw with mandatory removal by Dec 31. Joanne Dickenson confirmed that Houston is committed to supporting more exchanges (they have rebate \$ set aside) and they are planning to enforce the bylaw on a complaint-basis.

Treasurer Report

- Laurie Gallant provided financial statements for 2009.
- AMS is in good shape financially. Bank balance was approx. \$74,000 on Dec 31. Total 2009 revenues were just over \$108,000 and expenses were just over \$90,000.
- Much of the current remaining budget is set aside for the Woodstove Exchange Program.
- Laurie recommended that we switch our bank account to the BV Credit Union. Motion was seconded by Dave Stevens and carried.
- We still need to submit our official tax return for 2009.

New Treasurer to switch bank account from Royal Bank to Credit Union.

AJ to work with Laurie to get the tax return filed. If necessary, we will hire a local bookkeeper to assist.

Elections

- All positions were filled by acclamation. The following is the new executive and board:
 - President Dave Duncan

All need to help recruit a new Treasurer

- Vice President Shawna Scafe
- Treasurer vacant
- Secretary Ben Weinstein
- Other Directors:
 - Dave Stevens
 - AJ Downie
 - Joanne Dickenson
 - Laurie Gallant
 - Paul Schwarz
 - Doug Bysouth
 - Frits Goossen

Future of the Clean Air Plan 2010 Update

- Province of B.C. is committed to helping the BVLDA AMS, and has agreed to provide support through Ministry of Environment staff, and a planner from ILMB. Roxy Edey is a planner who will assist the AMS over the coming months with updating the plan.
- A separate meeting will be organized for later in the summer to discuss:
- The scope of the plan updates should we continue focussing on PM, or expand to other pollutants and issues (eg. GHGs)?
- Who should be engaged, and how to engage them there is interest in involving other stakeholders such as local governments
- The structure and process for updating the plan don't want to rely on the board, so need to set up committees and/or working groups organized by community, by sector, or both.
- As part of the engagement strategy, AJ and Shawna are willing to help inform local stakeholders about air quality and health.
- Amelia offered to assist with the plan update.

AJ to work with Roxy to organize a meeting in the summer to further define this project.