

Draft Minutes

BVLDAMS Board of Directors

Friday, July 21, 2006
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Doug Bysouth's house, Burns Lake

Attendance: Paul Schwarz, Doug Bysouth, Ian Sharpe, Ben Weinstein, Aurnir Nelson (alternate for Leroy Reitsma), Dave Stevens (left at 3:15 pm), Laurie Gallant

Guests: Henning Larsen, Manager for Babine Forest Products

Regrets: Leroy Reitsma, Joanne Dickenson, Frits Goossen

1. **Announcements and Workplan Updates**

a. Wood Stove Exchange

- bylaws by Smithers and Houston will boost success of Exchange program
- Laurie applied for funding to do outreach with Toyota; will know by December.
- hoping for MOE report next week on results of social marketing research – we will have 3 weeks to review; initial results indicate folks want 6 month lead in time to save up money, do research and generally prepare for removal of stove and installation of replacement system; on level of incentive – as low as \$400 for a \$3000 stove seemed acceptable.
- Tony Wakelin had indicated that AMS will be given project for implementation
- many questions around when, what, and funding remain but consensus reached that AMS wants to prioritize this initiative; that we want all factors to be in place before we commit to implementation, that we will fill in any gaps in incentive and promotion program ourselves.
- **Ben, Ian and Laurie are forming subcommittee to come up with rough plan for implementation in advance of report to submit to Tony before he leaves on vacation (Friday July 29) – important to capitalize on Fall Fair opportunity; want to explore voucher system idea.**
- Need to show a payback of 2 years if possible; get out to all trade shows and events
- **Contact Burns Lake to see if we can help out with bylaw development**

b. HFP announcement

- Dave Stevens produced copy of Beehive burner phaseout report available from public libraries indicating HFP is committed to installing energy system and closing down burner in time to comply with permit that requires shutdown by December 21, 2007
- **Send out membership bulletin; scan letter and post on website**
- **Laurie to draft up special letter or certificate that AMS can use to recognize and congratulate major initiatives that improve air quality; this is consistent with the Awards and Recognition program listed in our Communications Strategy.** Current candidates for recognition include:
- PIR, CANFOR, HFP, Town of Smithers, District of Houston, Barb Hall for facilitating partnership between Corwood and NEWPRO

- **This recognition should also include a newspaper ad and have a special place in our display at Fall Fair – display to include chronology of all major changes that have happened.**

c. Implementation of Ch.6&7 of Clean Air Plan

- September 11 set as date for annual Burn Operator's Forum; last year participants asked for 4 weeks notice, standing agenda, and opportunity for input into agenda in advance of meeting; **Laurie will send out invite by July 30**
- Small sawmill forum being planned – will be synchronizing with MOE effort
- Ian explained that MOE is developing a new regulation for small sawmills and will be consulting with local operators; white paper will be posted around end of August; small means smaller than Decker Lake, would include Corwood; co-op student is compiling a wood residue inventory (not projections just current volumes).
- Sawmill forum will focus on building solutions to help sawmills maximize cost and energy efficiencies and move away from burning. Bill Mason was a speaker at BioEnergy conference in PG and has agreed to help lead/present at workshop since he has experience and expertise in the State of Washington; Sharon Robertson for CFDC Nadina is on Laurie's planning committee and will be helping out with invitations. Board doesn't want to have event exclusively in Hazelton; okay with having 2 events at each end of the airshed if that's what it takes to get attendance up.
- New website on smoke and wildfires: firesmoke.ubc.ca

d. Governance and Finance

- Laurie asked Board if they want an opportunity to say yes or no to a specific funding source. Do they want to see all applications or can we work on a committee basis? Ian replied that Board members need to get actively involved with fundraising - not necessarily a good use of Laurie's contracted time and talent to have her writing proposals instead of working on emission reduction strategies; Dave and Ian agreed to be the Finance committee and will work on fundraising. Laurie provided a list of funders and Ian and Dave added to it:
 - MLA, BVCU, BC Lung, Toyota, New Deal, Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Pine Beetle, BV Foundation, Tech-Cominco Foundations, TD Bank, Real Estate Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Shell.
- Laurie will work with committee to identify projects that qualify for specific funding sources. Committee will also make the call on when the whole Board needs to be involved in making a decision. Next funding application is due August 30 – Direct access grant from MLA office; Laurie met with MLA office staff and has application forms. They were very helpful and optimistic.
- Henning counselled Board on difference between Operational and Governance issues; Laurie as the manager works at operational level; Board works on Governance.
- Dave asked Laurie if she has signed contract with AMS yet; he asked Board to consider employee benefits such as dental and health, stating that it's important to look after staff. Discussion was deferred with promise that we will revisit this issue (Dave had to leave meeting at this point).

e. Upcoming provincial and national events and policy issues

- AMS has been invited to apply to be one of 4 delegates across Canada to a Vancouver panel session of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

on November 22. The deadline to apply is August 18. Dave Stevens applied for this yesterday wearing his many hats but not specifically representing AMS.

- A national initiative is underway to replace the Air Quality Index with the Air Quality Health Index. The main difference is that PM2.5 drives the AQI and Ozone would drive the AQHI. The implications for airsheds such as ours would be significant if this happened since ozone is not a major pollutant here and funding would be redirected. This initiative is being informed by mortality data and NOT chronic illness data and some of our key scientists are not on the advisory team for this project ie. Hrebenyk and Bates. **Action: Laurie to write to BC Lung re: the annual health and AQ forum to suggest that we make this the theme of our event in 2007 and do an actual comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of these two indices and provide supporting data for mortalities and chronic illnesses for PM and Ozone.**

f. Correspondence

- Laurie noted that we continue to receive requests from our planning jurisdictions on how we formed, how we are funded etc. Latest inquiry comes from Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality.
- AMS was sent a courier invitation by Pembina Pipeline Corporation to provide them with input on the new pipeline project from Kitimat to Summit Lake
- Proceedings from the Provincial Airshed Planning Framework workshop that Laurie attended on behalf of AMS in Prince George on June 26 have been received and will be circulated via e-mail and posted on our website.
- MOE's climate change branch has received a proposal from local scientist Jeff Anderson in partnership with Laurie under the Footprint banner to test for links between air quality and large scale weather patterns (i.e. el nino, la nina) with input from Ben Weinstein. A request for further information has been received and responded to. Stay tuned.

Henning excused himself from the meeting.

2. Clean Air Plan Review 2006

- No new amendments were introduced by the Board at this time.
- It was noted that the AMS policy is to document the Board's response to each proposal, notify the membership that the review process has been completed, and post responses on the website as part of the Clean Air Plan.
- For simplicity, the proposal, comments received at the Forum, and the Board's response are all contained in a single document. At present an appendix in the Clean Air Plan summarizes proposals and responses are part of the 2006 edition of the Plan.
- **Agreement that the 2006 Clean Air Plan Review document would be circulated for review before being distributed to the public.**
- Specific actions and general comments related to this review are as follows:
 - Under the AMS banner, Laurie has joined a committee of the Smithers Social Planning Council to review the Smithers OCP to see how to better integrate social planning goals into the document. This addresses a standing action item as well as the Clean Air Plan review proposal to address potential new sources of emissions. Agreement that this is a good idea.
 - **Look into possibility and benefits of tagging on 1 day workshop around potential new sources onto 2007 BC Clean Air Forum versus having a BVLDS AMS event in Smithers.**

- **Board to brainstorm via e-mail on scenarios for dispersion modelling; may not need to hold a workshop with Stephanie.**
- **Agreement to add in Stephanie's co-indicator for agreement between reality and modelled scenario: number of scenarios run and how they are used.**
- CN Rail letter sent July 20; noted that other organizations and individuals requesting information have not been successful so may want to be proactive about getting a response.
- On traffic, noted that this is a secondary priority and partnerships should be level of proactivity for now; focus on truck diesel. Noted that BC Transit is part of team producing a Local Government toolkit for emission reduction – Laurie and Ben will be reviewing for applicability in our airshed and how this may address transportation emissions. For example, anti-idling campaigns and bylaws don't make sense here year round but can focus on summer applications.
- On Agricultural issues, **Ian Sharpe wearing MOE hat will write letter to Min. of Agriculture and Lands regarding air quality and health issues related to burning of balewrap plastic.**
- On raising profile and awareness of Air Quality Advisories, **MOE will look into purchase and placement of electronic read out boards.** Laurie will research how jurisdictions across the border communicate advisories.
- On road dust being a major trigger for advisories and the need to focus on strategies that affect our indicators, Laurie will canvass participants in our 2004 Road Dust forum on the need for another forum, program and speaker suggestions, and if and how New Deal money is being used to upgrade sweeping equipment. Can Darcey present on latest and greatest equipment since Smithers is currently buying a new sweeper?

3. Debriefing of Clean Air Day, AGM and Forum.

- Deferred to e-mail.
- Laurie has compiled comments received from evaluations and will circulate; she read a couple of comments that underscored the value of AMS and the role Board members play in the valley, and a tribute to Paul's presentation on the chronology of events leading to today's Clean Air Plan and the AMS.

4. Workplan and Budget

- Based on today's comments, **Laurie will develop a new workplan and an estimate of resources required. This will be reviewed by the Finance committee and decisions made to proceed with all workplan items and corresponding fundraising or to cut back.**
- Laurie noted that she has been exploring creative ways to implement actions items with limited resources such as partnering with other groups and either playing a lead or supporting role; synergy is our friend and we've got lots of synergy right now.
- Board agreed we need to focus on high value activities to raise our profile and that we can't do everything. Also important not to jump in to anything too quickly – we need to protect our image.
- Our challenge is to find an appropriate balance between actions to improve air quality based on today's data, versus actions for sustainable air quality in the longer term and the role global warming will play in this balance. Lack of forward planning has created the problem we are managing today.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.