



## bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

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### **Final Minutes**

Location: Smithers, MS Teams

#### **In Attendance:**

Sybille, Troy, Susan, Dennis, Ray and Paula.

Regrets: Dave Duncan, Genvieve Paterson, Charlie Rensby, Simon Schat

Chair: Troy, Recording: Sue

Introductions were made and a **motion** was made by Sybille to adopt the Jan 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Troy seconded.

**Chair:** Troy **Recording:** Sue

**Next meeting:** Jan. Thursday the 18th 4pm, Houston Council Chambers  
Guest Presentation Corrine Schiller, Senior Atmospheric Scientist -  
Environment Canada on the subject of the AQHI and the role that MSC Science  
is playing in forwarding that program. This will be a brief summary of the low-  
cost sensor PM2.5 pilot project, and the other current projects that she and her  
team are involved in.

#### **Motions:**

1. A motion to add Ray as a cosigner was made by Troy, Sybille seconded it.  
We will let Dave know and the BVCU.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave submitted this by email.

Topic 1: Term deposits purchased for the AMS, dated Oct 23, 2023:

\$1000 non-redeemable, for 1 year at 5.2%

\$5000 redeemable, for 1 year at 4.2%

Topic 2: The Operating Acct balance on Nov 20'th was \$17,307.74

Topic 3: Our bank balance is dropping quickly:

I issued \$4000 in cheques in October for the Woodstove Exchange program.

(WSEP)

Another \$4300 in cheques are required as of Nov 20'th, \$3800 of which is WSEP.

We didn't apply for the Woodstove Exchange funding for 2024, so our Treasurer is concerned about maintaining our programs. In the past, we have used unspent Woodstove exchange funding for administration costs shared with other projects.

Dave suggests we refrain from paid advertising on the CWSRP until we look closely at finances. It appears our grant funding from 2023 may be spent, we will review this after our year end financials are available.

Funding pressures:

Woodstove rebate demand has increased sharply this Fall.

We still need to maintain our Purple Air monitors. Dennis shouldn't have to volunteer his time. We have a cost-sharing agreement for parts, but we still need to contribute.

We will need to pay our bookkeeper for reports.

We still need to maintain our website and the domain fees.

Recommendations:

Apply for 2024 WSEP funding even though we missed the deadline. Treasurer thinks that post-pandemic there seems to be demand for rebates.

Consider revamping the WSEP until we get more funding from BC Lung Assoc.

Select some grants to apply for, and ask the towns and regional district for assistance from their grant writer.

**Action Item** \*\* Sue will discuss these issues with Dave.

Topic 4: Our 2017 and 2020 charity information returns were not submitted and they may revoke our charitable status. I called and mailed the two returns with a cover letter on November 27'th to the CRA. Fingers crossed that'll fix it.

## Reports

Guest Presentation:

Paula Tait

Health & Resource Development Technical Advisor, Northn Health

“Even small improvements in air quality will have positive effects for the entire population.”

- Pauls’s presentation is found here: <http://cleanairplan.ca/blog/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/23-10-11-Air-Quality-and-Health.pdf> we made it to page 26.

- Highlights include a background on primary pollutants versus secondary pollutants caused by collisions and reactions. She talked about the Northern Health priorities in addressing poor air quality 1, prevention 2, mitigation and 3, adaptation. She showed us the American Lung association State of the Air report for 2022 (<https://www.lung.org/getmedia/74b3d3d3-88d1-4335-95d8-c4e47d0282c1/sota-2022>). She talked about air quality being one of the leading modifiable causes of death in the World. She also went over the AQHI, 3 of our communities are served by this index.

- Thank-you Paula! We appreciate the report.

## Coordinated Projects

### Wood Stove Exchange Program

- as of the September, the application date for 2024, there were no wood stove exchange rebate requests. As of this meeting date there have been 6 fulfilled with more in the works.
- Sue did not apply for funding for 2024 but did make an application for the society to keep the unused 2023 funding and carry on until it is spent.
- The Town of Smithers is not matching rebate funding going forward but will consider it in 2025. They request a presentation to council about funding options both generally and targeted. They will continue to provide recycling and other in kind services.
- Check out the current wood smoke reduction program details at: <https://cleanairplan.ca/blog/2022/10/14/community-wood-smoke-reduction-program/>

## 1. Purple Air Sensor Network

- Sue has prepared preliminary reports for some communities comparing PM<sub>2.5</sub> densities and health risk tolerances. Click here: <https://cleanairplan.ca/blog/2023/12/12/risk-tolerances/>. Seasonal variances are very obvious as are the location of communities. Here is a link for the District of Houston:
- On the topic of sensors, the BCCDC has prepared a report on a few years Biomass Smoke which includes residential wood smoke, open burning source smoke and wildfire smoke. For details on the report click here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722050550>
  - Section 3.3.1 has Case study 1: Local wildfire smoke in Burns Lake, British Columbia” for 2018.
  - They share these findings with other health agencies interested in asthma, drug development, Covid and in-utero development.
  - They make note of 3 day long exposures and 7 day long exposures.
  - They made smoke models trying to identify CDN communities disproportionately impacted using a model called CANOSSEM.
  - They can demonstrate impacts of the diurnal cycle and prove socio-economic status correlates to poor air exposure.
  - A Jan. 2023 report to the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation re: purple air sensors: [https://cleanairplan.ca/new2/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BVCF\\_fnlrptPPLExpW2022.pdf](https://cleanairplan.ca/new2/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/BVCF_fnlrptPPLExpW2022.pdf)

## 2. Town of Smithers

- Sue met with the Smithers ESS chair Matt Herzog. The ESS Team put together an application (UBCM grants) for sensors that tie into a valley wide ESS system using private technology called LTE Flex. Sue showed off the purple air network and the portals and how to expand or include it for community education. The response to our portals was positive but before the ESS crew can drive traffic to them they need to be tested and robust enough not to fail.
- Sue met with Mark Allan and Jaima the Climate Action Specialist and talked clean energy grants, there is a shortage of HVAC and certified installers in Smithers, a requirement to fulfill these rebates.
- Spatial models or maps are being developed that show virtual home energy rating assessments, this could be a tool for air quality planning.

- Zonal targets or income qualified funding of rebates would be a good strategy.
  - Positive feedback on our Town fo Smithers site.
4. Messaging
- Sue just created an Instatgram account but hasn't entered the particulars but will do eventually.
  - Our Facebook page is a personal profile and not a business. Its been recommended we use a business status to link to instagram and get more functionality from FB. Sue created this but hasn't populated the fields. Is there a volunteer to finish setting these up?
  - It was recommended we create a Paypal account for increased security when purchasing supplies on line. In addition we could get a DONATE button for our website and Blog - this might drive up donations. Is this something we should vote on?

### **Volunteer Driven Projects:**

1. Air Beam Project - <https://cleanairplan.ca/blog/2022/03/15/smog-blog/>
2. Grant Applications - none outstanding
3. Fundraising **Action Item\*\*** Sue to flush out a municipal funding model and submit to the Board for review.

### **Action Items: on the next page**

1 - Sue has contacted the National Pollutant Release Inventory Department of Health Canada by phone and email 5 times and still not gotten a response. She continues to contact them for a guest presentation.

2 - Sue drafted letter for a Burn Operator workshop and not got feedback from Directors, she will attach it here for your review.

### **Other News:**

1. A big THANK\_YOU to Dennis Strain for his volunteer efforts managing our domain registrations and renewals, sites, passwords, purple trials, sensor deployment and more.

Meeting Adjourned 12:10pm

**Next meeting:** Jan. Thursday the 18th 4pm, Houston Council Chambers

Table 1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Current Open Action Items</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>Dec 7, 2023</b>	Review invitation and format document of an Open Burn Forum	Directors, Sue
<b>Jan 13, 2023</b>	Post bvcf final report on line, send link to Directors	Sue
<b>Nov. 4, 2022</b>	update representative info at Canada Post, Sybille H, Dennis S, Dave D and Sue B	Dave/Sue
<b>Nov. 4, 2022</b>	update representative info at BVCU	Dave/Sue
<b>Nov. 4, 2022</b>	propose sensor locations for E and W of Burns (2)	Doug
<b>May 4, 2023</b>	Draft a letter of invitation to Forestry and Mining Industrys inviting them to sit as Directors, drafted and awaiting comments	All
<b>May 4, 2023</b>	Delineate priorities for 2023/24 and propose a long term municipal funding strategy.	Directors, Sue
<b>May 4, 2023</b>	Lookat community resiliency: pipeline community capacity grant money. Narrowing field of apps, Smithers and Houston would likely endorse but needs delegation to council.	Sybille, Sue, Karen Hogstead, (Houston)