



bulkley valley - lakes district
airshed management society

Annual General Meeting
Final MINUTES
May 4, 2023

Telecommunications: Paula Tait and Northern Health,
paula.Tait@northernhealth.ca

Meeting in Person at the District of Houston Council Chambers,
3367 - 12th Street, (PO Box 370), Houston, BC, V0J 1Z0
Phone: 250 845-2238
Regular District Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Chair: Troy Reitsma,
Recording: Sue Brookes

Present: Dave Duncan, Doug Bysouth, Troy, Hans Duerichen, Laurie Gallant, Ben Wienstein, Paula, Genvieve Paterson, Sue, Merran Smith, Sybille Haeussler, Charlie Rensby

Regrets: Ray Sturney, Dennis Strain

Call to order: 4:10 pm
Land Acknowledgement
Introductions

Adoption of agenda - Doug motions, Sybille seconded, no additional items

Adoption of minutes of 2022 AGM - Sybille motioned, all in favour

Welcome of Guests, Green Energy Pioneers of the Bulkley Valley.

JG (Hans) Duerichen PEng, Mentor of Ardent Energy and Founder of RSF Energy. Hans is an innovator, engineer and business operator. He will present his current take on the Environment, Clean Energy and Climate Change.

<https://ardentenergy.ca/about.php>, hduerichen@gmail.com

tel: (250) 847-2019, cel: (250) 877-2171

Hans had a one page graph showing the increase of CO2 emissions. He gave a brief history of his life and made the following points:

- an explanation of global warming
- get to your own facts, do your own research, get trusted sources
- mind the waste in all processes
- consider shipping and the consequences
- Hans is looking to mentor wood stove manufacturing in the Region and want to facilitate production of what he knows: woodstoves, his Ontario affiliate is shutting down.

Merran Smith, the founder and chief innovation officer of Clean Energy Canada—a leading think tank advancing clean energy and climate solutions. Merran recently served as co-chair of the B.C. government's Climate Solutions Council and will share with us her trajectory since leaving Smithers and becoming a Green Energy Pioneer!

lyndsay@cleanenergycanada.org; merran@cleanenergycanada.org

Highlights:

- accelerating the energy transition in Canada.
- find discussion items at the end of the presentation.
- as of 2023 95% of the worlds net GDP is committed to net zero carbon emissions.
- we are 1 of 10% of Nations that have oil and gas or energy security versus energy insecurity. This is a top driver for getting off fossil fuels in most Nations.
- air pollution is the second driver for net zero, third is the availability of fossil fuels.
- Merran supplied us with a world energy outlook in a few bullets.
- the new economy starts now.

Q&A: You are invited to contact Clean Energy Canada and respond to Merran's discussion points.

Discussion:

The batteries - what happens to them when they are the largest cost of a car. Merran answers after 10 years batteries are not degrading as fast as they used to. Used batteries can be used for storage, they can (and will) get recycled, they are going to be too valuable not to recycle.

Particulate - open burning, dust, industrial emissions etc - how do you see that moving forward, where is the most promise for improvements? Merran mentions wildfires as a symptom of climate change and the importance to act appropriately, reducing climate change and slowing down fossil fuel use.

Hydro Electricity - there will likely not be more production in BC but there will be off shore windfarms.

Particulate - what's happening in the trucking and transportation industry? Hydrogen powered trucks, CN might be piloting hydrogen engines. Walmart and Amazon are looking for lower footprint transportation options.

A brief mention of mining and the impact of the industry on PM and more.

Review of Previous Action Items: none open

See Projects and Reports below for more.

Treasurer's Report:

The year's Financial Statements are prepared by Barbara Erni, they are unaudited.

Total assets, maximizer under 30K - balance sheet review. Treasurer proposed a GIC investment at the BVCU for roughly \$5000.00. He will get back to us.

Election of Directors

Executive Positions:

Chair Troy - volunteers

Treasurer - David, though this will be his last year

Recording Secretary - Sue

Was anyone willing not to stand as a Director this year?

Paula Tait will step down as a Director but remain as a Technical Advisor. Thank-you Paula for your years of service your contributions are always welcome!

All other Directors have been contacted by email and are re-elected unless otherwise noted. Our new Directors are named in the table.

Dave Duncan	Smithers
Doug Bysouth	Burns Lake
Troy Reitsma	Houston
Sybille Haeussler PhD RPF	Smithers
Simon Schat	Telkwa
Genvieve Paterson	Smithers
Charlie Rensby	Village of Burns Lake
Ray Sturney	Village of New Hazelton

Projects and Reports:

Update from Paula Tait (NH):

I'm sorry to step away as Director, but I hope to stay as engaged as technical advisor to the group. I will attend meetings when my schedule allows and hope to stay on the email distribution list.

Please reach out to me by email or phone as needed.

I will coordinate with the Regional Airshed Management Group Coordinators to develop seasonal resources most needed across our northern communities (e.g. anti-idling messaging, road dust, wood smoke, materials for youth engagement, climate change and land use planning resources, etc)

I am working with others in Public Health to develop some key messages and stories that discuss/clarify extreme heat, wildfire smoke, physical activity, tobacco/cannabis use, and mental health recommendations for the public heading into summer 2023

I continue to provide public health review for industrial projects going through Environmental Assessment process

I hope to provide a written summary from the last BC Lung Air Quality and Health workshop soon. Slides and recordings available here: <https://bclung.ca/health-professionals/air-quality-health-workshop>

I'm participating with provincial groups:

BC HASE (wildfire smoke exposure group)

BC HEAT (health effects of anomalous temperatures group)

I have updated my air quality and health presentation to give to new members at PGAIR and Vanderhoof – I can do this for BVLD AMS if interested

Paula Tait, CPHI(C) (she/her)

Air Quality, Health & Resource Development Technical Advisor, Northern Health, 500 – 299 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC V2L 5B8, Remote office/cell: 250.961.5662, paula.tait@northernhealth.ca

Statistics Canada Data (Sybille)

We wanted better understanding of the make up of our population and hence we are looking at the data. We have 27000 people in our airshed, a much younger population than the provincial average. Our senior population is a little lower than the Provincial average and in the 20 - 40 year old age group we are also short of the Provincial average.

Wood Stove Exchange

Sue briefly highlighted the program and this year is fully funded with rebate money available to residents of the airshed.

Regional Task Force on Air Quality

Sue has formed this group with Kitimat and PG and though she has limited capacity to engage (lack of funding) it's a great alliance for sharing, cross promotion and delivering resources.

Micro Emissions Inventory Report

Plain language document available in hard copy or on line at: <https://cleanairplan.ca/plain/PlainLanguage.pdf>.

We need to skip forward a few years and do this again! The next steps include financing.

Purple Air Network Report

Sue has a slide of plots provided by the Ministry of the Environment from Purple Air Sensors in Smithers. Please note these plots are intended to paint a picture and not based on final audited numbers supplied by UNBC. The map shows % difference from the mean value of all monitors in Smithers – so this avoids showing any 'real' numbers and tells us what each monitor is showing relative to each other. When Houston has been on line a full year similar reports will be provided.

Community Pages

Updating municipal or community pages with relevant Air Quality AQHI or PM levels, health messages, burn restriction etc - needs some priority. See witset.cleanairplan.ca as an example. The Village of Hazelton has provided \$500 for development of theirs. Sue will get in touch with Houston next about their ideas and concepts.

Mobile Monitoring Update

We have a member doing a smog slog, using an air beam and habitat maps on line. Borrow the device! Check it out by going to our blog for the link: <https://cleanairplan.ca/blog/2022/03/15/smog-blog/>

Membership

A Director mentions one industry asking how much for a Industry membership, we have no classification but should consider this idea We also need to invite members from Industry to sit as Directors

Action Item*** Sue to draft a letter and circulate it to Directors before inviting Industry.

Industrial Monitoring

We don't currently have capacity to do this but there is grant money available from Northern Healthy Communities Fund: Capacity Building (<https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NDIT-Advance-Request-Form.pdf>) were we to consider how to get consistent monitoring and compliance from our Industry stakeholders.

Action Item** Draft letter to Drax: invite them to present what is the monitoring procedure how are they in compliance, how can they do more to capture the fibre on the landscape. What are their emission sources at their facility.

Open Burning - specific to Wildfire Abatement, Agriculture and the Forest Industry

Under Open Burn Smoke Control Regulations, operators should disclose details of burn plans. We could/should invite Burn Operators to present some stats.

Action Item*** Draft a letter requesting presentations on Smoke Mngament by Industry. trend over the years? best practices? best capture,- how do you measure it? Burn Registrations and Burn Reports for the 2022/23 season. Also what planning exists for 2023/24, what are plans for improvements, notification systems and more.(Sue)

PM 10 Management

Not actively engaged - no volunteers and no funding.

Canada Revenue Agency

Discussion of status all regulatory filings CRA and Corporate Registry.

Action Item*** Sue will initiate filing and ask Dave to submit.

Other business?

General Discussion on priorities for this year 23/24.

General Discussion on how to start planning for BVLD AMS longevity

- long term funding options?
- recruiting younger Directors - young forester interested - Doug will invite her to the next meeting and introduce her.
- do municipalities contribute anything? No. It was proposed that getting agreement from the municipalities to pitch in could solve funding issues. Let's try to duplicate the PG Air model. We would need a list of priorities first.
- what about the climate change strategy group - what synergies are there?

Action Item*** This discussion of priorities and follow up to continue in email.

Action Item*** Sybille to look at some capacity building grants

Action Item*** Draft letter to the NPRI: invite them to present what is the monitoring procedure explain the permitting.

Adjournment..6 pm