



# bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

coordinator@cleanairplan.ca, 250 847-0678, [cleanairplan.ca](http://cleanairplan.ca), cleanairplan.ca/blog  
Mail Care Of: Ben Weinstein, Air Quality Meteorologist,  
BAG 5000 3726 Alfred Avenue Smithers BC V0J 2N1 Ministry of the Environment

## **Draft Minutes Directors' Meeting: Dec 17, 2024**

**Location:** Smithers Community Futures and MS Teams

### **In Attendance:**

**Directors:** Sybille, Doug, Genevieve, David  
**Members:** Vickie, Jay

**Regrets:** Ray, Charlie, Troy, Paula, Nikki

**Chair:** David

**Recording:** Sue

### **Introductions**

Everyone made a brief introduction.

**Motion** to adopt the November meeting minutes by David.

Sybille seconded the motion, all in favour.

Click this link for [final minutes and supporting documents](#).

### **2024/2025 Meeting Schedule: meeting locations rotate**

Dates and Times approved by Directors

January 17th, Friday 11 - 1pm - TBA

March 17th, Monday 4 - 5pm

May 17th, AGM/Open House followed by Directors Meeting

Saturday 10 - 2pm

### **Abbreviations:**

AI: Action Item

MOE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategies

ECCC: Environment and Climate Change Canada

CWSRP: Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

### **1. Motions: made by Sybille, all in favour**

1. Letter to Industry stakeholders - minor changes required
2. Letter to the EAO regarding coal development - reword to offer the EAO an opportunity to collaborate with the AMS via a community forum or workshop on findings or invite them as guests to the Directors' meetings
3. Letter to municipal partners- similar feedback, make it more specific and send.

Noted:

- Don't use the word fees use language like in the Plan, general goals - "some time in the next year we plan to do an workshop to honour the general goals of the plan", provided a budget for fundraising and planning this workshop and further assessment of the Clean Air Plan

AI\*\*fill out the delegation request form for the Town of Smithers. Attach the entire plan and present a few sections. Highlight the sections that can be scored.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** - similar feedback, make it more specific and send

1. AI\*\* Dave to find out whether we need to set up a password for etransactions

**3. Fundraising Discussion**

1. CWSRP - go back and ask for an advertising budget, clarify the Ministry's position on Bounties
2. Wetzinkwa Grant - end of May - to fund an Open Burning Forum in partnership.
  - discussion points could include what was learned from evaluation of alternatives to burn, ie chipping, incinerating, Hugelkultur, best practices
3. Dungate Community Forest
4. AI\*\* Sue to get RDKS Director, Cyra's contact info to Sybille

**4. Smithers Purple Air Presentation from Vickie Irish, MOE:**

- the Shared Agreement for setting up PM sensors in Smithers resulted in 17 sensors in Smithers for the period of 2022 - 2023, MOE - 4, ECCC 2, BVLD AMS 5, Town of Smithers 3, RDBN 2, Private 1. This was a 2 year project ending in 2023. We will have to discuss the future of these sensors.
- Vickie's report focuses on relative differences between sensors rather than absolutes, these sensors can not detect source apportionment.
- there is an obvious high winter variability spatially and temporally.
- the report will be released to the public after Ministry review, Directors will receive a copy prior to this.
- Directors believe that Willowvale is served by natural gas and as it is not affected as much by PIR emissions it's interesting to note it's readings.

**5. What Matters In Our Valley and Telkwa Coal Discussion:**

- Bathurst Resources
  - well financed proponent
  - pushed with a greater degree
  - new EA Law requiring community consultation, the EA's idea of this includes discussion with WMIOV and they have not committed to consulting with anyone else - combine this request with a workshop on findings
  - their impact assessment does not focus on air, the regional information is missing
  - what is the nature of the PM?
  - what about the nuisance impacts, blowing dust for example
  - how far does the dust travel?
- what information is missing from the EA, who are some experts that can look at this data? Has the group contacted private firms like RDI, the NGO Climate Action Network Int'l? Folks in New Zealand?
  - AI\*\*Sue to forward Jay some contact's info. (including Barb Oake, Watershed Sentinel, Norm Zirnheldt) - what was the comment about Norm from Sybille?
  - AI\*\*Vickie to forward Jay contact info for her UBC and Cambridge professors
- From Feb - Sept there is an EAO assessment period, during this time there will be:
  - a public open house
  - a draft assessment report released

- a 30 day public comment period
- at the end of this 150 days there will be a final report
- Comments that Telkwa Coal considered a 3% increase in PM levels in Telkwa to be insignificant consider Telkwa already exceeds the Provincial recommended 24 hour average
- **AI\*\***Vickie was going to ask the MOE office whether this is the position of the Ministry

5. General Updates and Discussion:

1. CWSRP status update: \$8000 in rebate money granted from the Ministry of the Environment and BC Lung Association. No money toward fees or contractor: all \$8000 is to go toward exchange or bounties.

a future program considerations:

- Making an inventory of homes with noticeably smoky woodstoves or fireplaces, and making home visits. Explain the health and economic improvements of burning cleaner, explain the rebates available and give them a copy of the rebate application form.

2. Coffee Roasting as a source of emissions

- Catalytic converters for coffee roasters cost roughly \$20k, what about rebates for this, will the Province ever switch gears and offer rebates to small business?

6. Open Action Items summarized here:

1	Sue draft a letter to our stakeholders reminding them of the process and commitments, tell them they will hear from us again, we are circling! 2nd draft issued and reviewed at meeting	Sue
2	Sue revise draft to EAO for more assessment before the 60 day final process of public input begins. see minutes Dec. 17th, 1st draft reviewed and all in favour with changes mentioned in meeting	Sue
3	Co benefit Lens, call for projects for 2025 in April-May and finalize the project list by early August, Connolly, James John Timothy < <a href="mailto:jconnoll@mail.ubc.ca">jconnoll@mail.ubc.ca</a>	Sybille
4	Delineate priorities for 2023/24 and propose a long term membership funding strategy for municipal and industrial funding. - this is evolving	Directors, Sue
5	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)
6	Confirm Charlie and Simon's intent to stay with the AMS as Directors	Sue