



bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

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Mail Care Of: Ben Weinstein, Air Quality Meteorologist,
BAG 5000 3726 Alfred Avenue Smithers BC V0J 2N1 Ministry of the Environment

Final Minutes **Directors Meeting: Nov. 20, 2024**

Location: Smithers Community Futures and MS Teams

In Attendance:

Sybillie, Doug, Genevieve, Paula, Kaylee, David, Sue, Vickie, Nikki

Regrets: Ray, Charlie, Troy

Chair: David

Recording: Sue

Introductions

Everyone made a brief introduction.

Motion to adopt the January meeting minutes by David. Sybillie seconded the motion, all in favour. Click the blue for [final minutes and supporting documents](#).

2024/2025 Meeting Schedule: (locations are proposed) **Dates and Times approved. Locations to be determined.**

December 17th, Tuesday 3pm - 5pm

January 17th, Friday 11 - 1pm

March 17th, Monday 4 - 5pm

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

Saturday 10 - 2pm

1. Treasurer's Report: Roughly \$4627.00 in the BVCU account. We have 3 term deposits, 1) non redeemable for \$1000 for a year, 2) \$4200 non redeemable for 2 years 3) another \$1000 in a GIC. We received \$1350.00 from the RDBN, for a purple air project earlier this year. A brief summary of expenditures this year include:

-A total of \$3500 in stove rebates was paid out so far this year (2024), of which \$1200 in stove rebates were paid out since September 1 2024. Our balance could change again if there's a few more rebate requests prior to Dec 31'st.

- we paid roughly \$1000 in advertising and bookkeeping
- we paid roughly \$6700 in coordinator billing and expenses

Noted: we need about \$10 - \$20000/year for minimal funding. Fundraising remains important whether we call for donations or municipal membership fees.

Discussion:

We drafted a municipal membership proposal in the early part of the year but never went to our municipalities to ask. **Action Item**** Sue and Genevieve and David to meet briefly in December to look at review of the Clean Air Plan and identifying specific deliverables we could include in the municipal funding proposal for 2025. That will depend in part on whether we receive funding for the Community Woodstove Rebate Program (CWRP) for 2025.

2. **MOE, Vickie Irish**, will soon release purple numbers for the 2 years ending Feb 2024 for Houston, Valemont and Smithers. Vickie will be able to speak to this at the next meeting.

Referrals

a) **What Matters in Our Valley**: asking us to submit a letter requesting public consultation and engagement in the Telkwa Coal development process. Motion put forward by Doug and David seconded. **Action Item**** Sue to draft letter for approval in email. Genevieve to confirm whether there is a conflict of interest with her role as Councillor. <https://whatmattersinourvalley.com/news/f/where-things-are-at-with-telkwa-coal>

b) **Northern Energy Dialogues Project**, deadline Dec. 31st What - lead and coordinate a 10 question survey/conversation to spark dialogue and identify local interests and needs around energy. Funded By: Canada First Research Excellence Fund, Government of Canada, Accelerating Community Energy Transformation **Action Item**** Sue to touch base with Smithers Climate Action Group and ask whether they intend to pursue this. Seems like insufficient time and we need to focus our energy on air quality specifically. Genevieve to connect Paula to the Climate Action Specialist in Smithers. Smithers Climate Action Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/249952592766103/>

Coordinator Report:

- See PDF, attached separately for simple Purple Air Reports Community Wood Smoke Reduction Plan (CWSRP):
- formerly the WSEP
- Sue reviewed the current rebate values and the rationale for not participating in the \$250/unit salvage program until now
- there was discussion around keeping some rebate values low despite the Provincial increase to certain rebate amounts. This is because we do not have funding this year and want to keep some money on reserve.
- we have roughly \$3500 we can earmark for exchanges when there is already an inquiry and paperwork is pending
- we should hear about 2025 funding soon
- a community science project was proposed but will be withdrawn so as not to hurt our chances of receiving the maximum allowable exchange funding. Doing the science project led me to Kaylee and another AQ industry who may be able to help us make referrals, access info and produce some 'airshed' level reports
- Vickie also mentions other reports to circulate to Paula and others
- Vickie also offers to produce some smoky sky bulletin counts on this and previous years

Co-Benefit Lens: digging into the possibility of a project with the School of Regional and Community Planning, UBC

Sybille looked up community energy plans and found that Smithers' is similar to the co-benefit plan that the School supports developing. She spoke to the Climate Change Specialist and thinks there may be collaborative opportunities. We all agree we do not want to engage in 2 planning projects so the scope of this project will have to be complimentary to our review and implementation of the Clean Air Plan. Our current plan does not include GHG or carbon emission planning or reduction strategies, ESS Protection Services, Wildfire Mitigation Strategies and VOC or other air pollution related topics. Vaping, Idling and Transportation have been referred to in our implementation of the plan but are NOT our focus. The links to the report for PG Air is this: https://www.pgairquality.com/uploads/FinalReport_PG AIR April4th.pdf Sybille also sussed out the application for a grant in aid from the RDBN, it would cover the areas Electoral Areas A, B, and G and here is the link: <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/economic-development/grant-services/grant-aid>

Action Item** Doug to ask the RDBN if they are engaged in community energy planning or have a climate change specialist. Also get an ESS or protective services department contact. Sybille to follow up with the school regarding application dates and tailoring the project, cost. The full information for submitting a project is here: <https://scarp.ubc.ca/studio-proposal>

Discussion Topics:

1. How we connect with climate action strategies and whether we should expand or specialize our air quality improvement strategies. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.
2. The NHA Climate Team is preparing a climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment. They have consulted with a variety of partners including BCCDC and the Ministry of Forests (Vanessa Foord).
3. Open Burning came up a couplet times as an example of real improvements in industry at reducing emissions:
 - how do we check in on goals and targets and identify new priorities in the Clean Air Plan? What do we need from stakeholders exactly?
 - in the current world, the utilization of wood has removed the amount of debris left on the land for industry
 - the MOE has new venting modelling and this may or may not be available now, its more accurate... This is still pay per use I believe, Ben W last spoke of this in early 2024, we could use an update.
 - for private landowners there is an increased demand for fibre too, new relationships are forming locally between the mill, pellet plants and privately owners/ranchers.
4. The NHA has done work regarding social marketing or behaviour change in the past and this might be a good way to expand the woodsmoke reduction program. NH was involved in a pilot workshop in August 2024 from the Breathe program where we delivered supplies and instruction to elders for DIY indoor air cleaners. There may be possibilities for the BVLDSAMS to get involved.
5. Clean Air Plan review: our commitment is doing this every 5 years - we need to go back to stakeholders and request their support and possible funding. **Action Item**** 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! Use the language in the plan, keep it neutral. A further

note: look at the plan through the lens of Health and identify what should be modified, Paula will take a brief look.

Meeting Adjourned 5:18pm

Next meeting: December 17, 3 - 5pm MSTEAMS, Smithers

Guest: Colin Vandergaag, West Fraser, Burn Season Notes

Guest: Vickie Irish, Purple Air Reports for Valemont, Smithers, Houston

Contact List this period:

Kaylee Barnes, AQ Grad Student, UNBC, barnesk@unbc.ca (Referred by Peter Jackson)

Matthew Sawycky, mts@rwdi.com | rwdi.com, RWDI, Climate & Performance Engineering

Colin Vandergaag, West Fraser, 250 847-2657

Vickie Irish, Meteorologist, vickie.irish@gov.bc.ca, Air Quality Section (Assessment and Stewardship) EMAB | EPD | ENV Office: (250) 876-7076 | Mobile: (778) 584-5719

Sarah Korn, Community Energy Engagement, sarah.korn@alumni.unbc.ca, Partners: UNBC, UVIC, Can First

Table 1

Date	Year	Current Open Action Items	Who	Status	Body
November	2024	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! drafted and emailed to Directors Dec. 6th, 24	Sue	open	board
November	2024	What Matters in our Valley is asking the Environmental Assessment office for more assessment and to have some kind of forum before the 60 day final process of public input begins. They want us to write a letter requesting the same Emalied WMIOV to confirm whether still useful. Dec. 6.	Directors, Sue	open	board
November	2024	Co benefit Lens, call for projects for 2025 in April-May and finalize the project list by early August, Connolly, James John Timothy < jconnoll@mail.ubc.ca	Sybille	open	board
May	2023	Delineate priorities for 2023/24 and propose a long term membership funding strategy for municipal and industrial funding. - this is evolving	Directors, Sue	open	board
May	2023	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)	open	board
April	2024	Confirm Charlie and Simon's intent to stay with the AMS as Directors	Sue	open	board